big NATE OUT LOUD

by LINCOLN PEIRCE

big

NATE

OUT LOUD

Other Books by Lincoln Peirce

Big Nate: In a Class by Himself

Big Nate Strikes Again

Big Nate: From the Top

big NATE OUT LOUD

by LINCOLN PEIRCE

Andrews McMeel
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For the Rhode Islanders

EVER SINCE MARCUS STARTED WEARING THROWBACK HOCKEY JERSEYS, EVERYONE'S DOING IT!
MARCUS IS A TREND-SETTER.
HEY, I'M DO THAT! I'M GONNA SET SOME TRENDS!
4/2
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS! YOU DON'T DECIDE TO SET TRENDS!
WELL, THAT'S HOW NATE'S GOING TO DO IT!
PLEASE TELL ME REFERRING TO YOURSELF IN THE THIRD PERSON ISN'T A NEW TREND.
NOT A TREND, AMIGO. JUST THE WAY NATE ROLLS.
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Paige

IT'S OFFICIAL! I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A TRENDSETTER!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT MEANS I'M GOING TO SET TRENDS, OF COURSE! I'M GOING TO LIVE MY LIFE, AND PEOPLE ARE GOING TO IMITATE ME!
4/3
DUDE. PEOPLE ALREADY IMITATE YOU.
THEY DO?
DOOYYY! GUESS WHO I AM!
SEE?
HA HA HA HA HEH HA
HA HA NICE HAIR! HA HA
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Peirce

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WHAT THE...?
WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A SOMBRERO, AMIGOS!
SOON EVERYBODY WILL COPY ME BY GETTING THEIR OWN SOMBREROS! IT'LL BE SOMBRERO MANIA! AND IT ALL STARTED WITH ME!
HEAR THAT, MARCUS? YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY TREND-SETTER AROUND!
YES HE IS!
NOW THAT'S A TREND I COULD GET BEHIND!
Peirce
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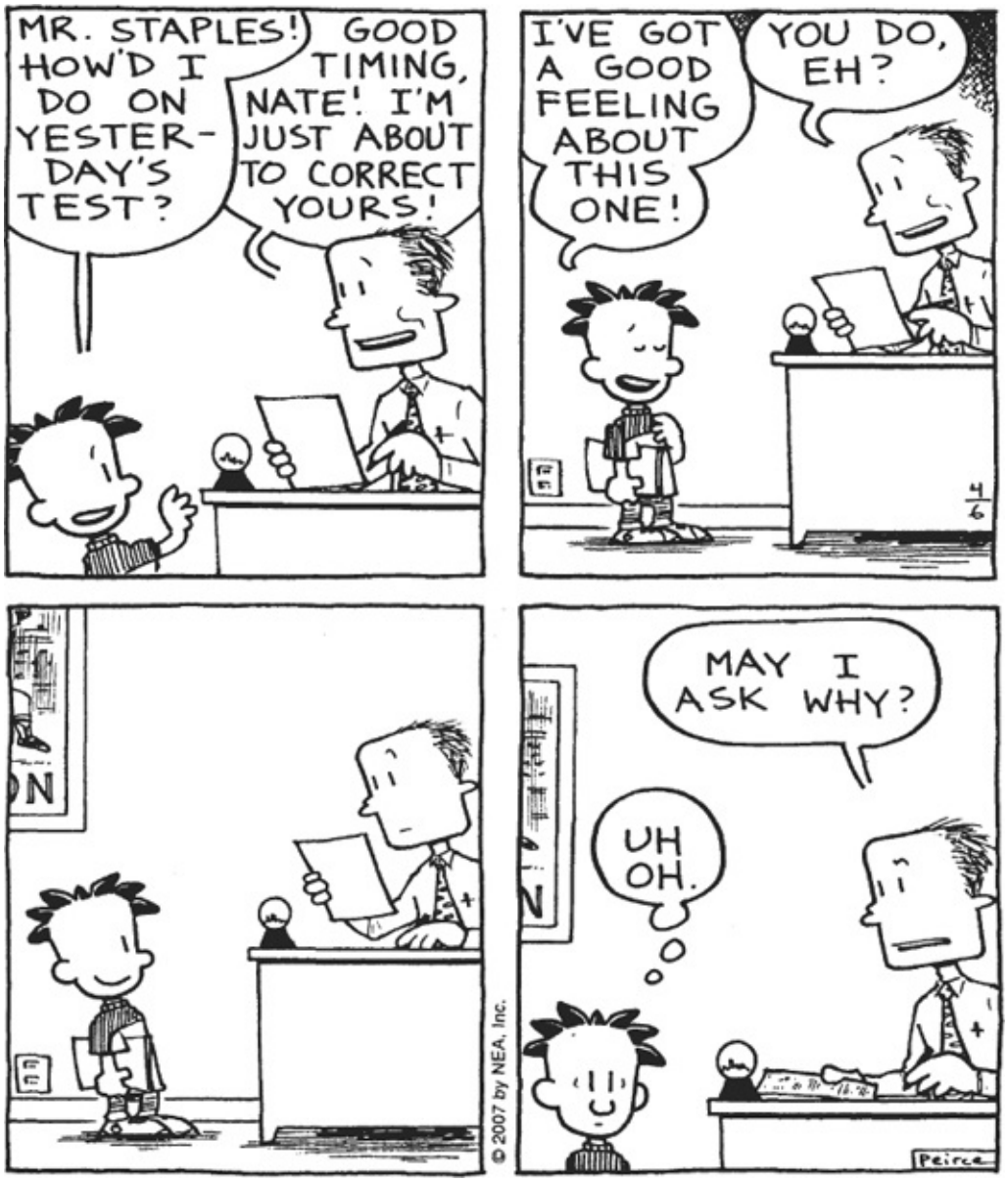

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MR. GALVIN! WHAT DID I GET ON THE QUIZ?
I'M HANDING THEM BACK IN CLASS TODAY, NATE. YOU'LL FIND OUT THEN.
CAN'T YOU JUST GIVE ME A HINT OF HOW I DID?
OH, YOU PROBABLY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF HOW YOU DID.
4/7
NO, I DON'T! I HAVE NO CLUE!
SAY THAT AGAIN.
I HAVE NO CLUE?
THERE'S YOUR HINT.
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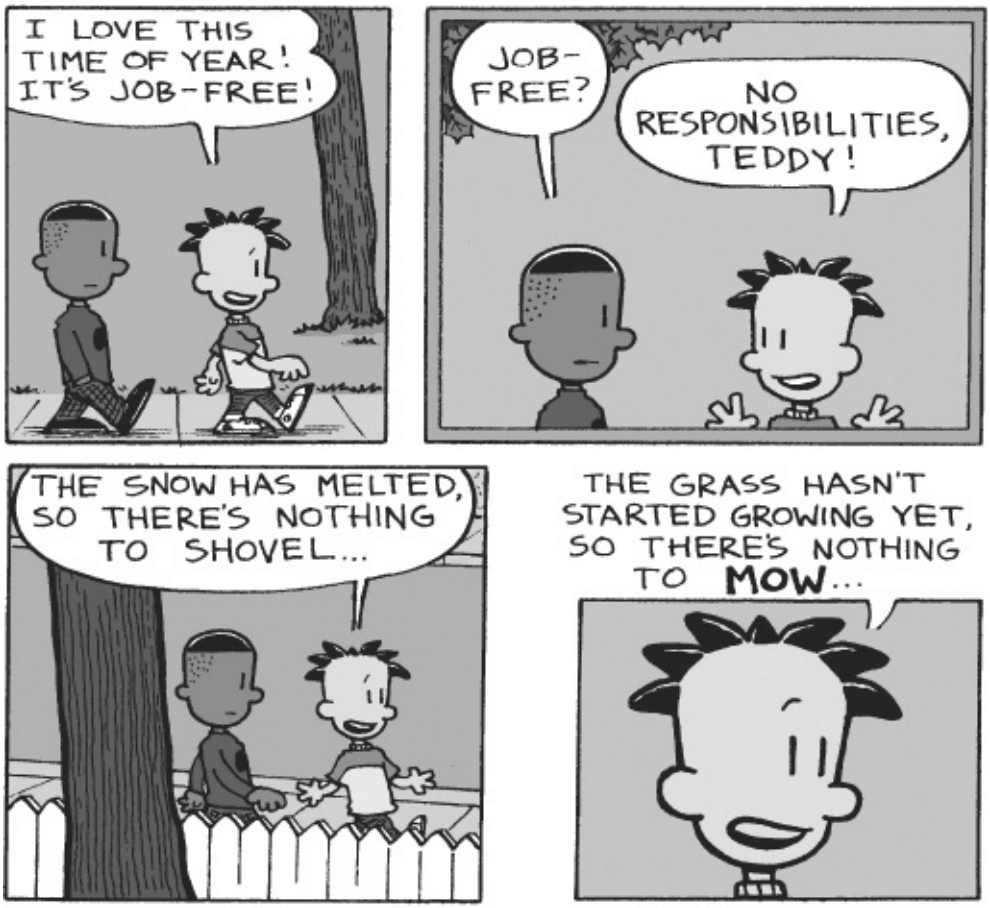
I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR! IT'S JOB-FREE!
JOB-FREE?
NO RESPONSIBILITIES, TEDDY!
THE SNOW HAS MELTED, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO SHOVEL...
THE GRASS HASN'T STARTED GROWING YET, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO MOW...

→

EFF ST
...AND THERE AREN'T ANY LEAVES ON THE GROUND, SO THERE'S NOTHING TO RAKE!
NO RESPONSIBILITIES! JOB-FREE!
WRIGHT
WHAT A REVOLTING TURN OF EVENTS.
DANG IT!

big NATE

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MOST PEOPLE THINK PITCHING IS ALL ABOUT ARM STRENGTH!
...BUT YOU'VE GOT TO USE YOUR LEGS WHEN YOU'RE A PITCHER!
4/10
...OR A CATCHER.
MY BAD!
Peirce
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COME ON, NATE! LET'S PLAY CATCH!
AGAIN?
WE JUST PLAYED CATCH YESTERDAY!
I KNOW! BUT YESTERDAY I WAS THROWING MY SLIDER!
TODAY I WANT TO WORK ON MY SCREWBALL!
4/11
IT'S A SCREWBALL COMEDY, BUT NOBODY'S LAUGHING.
WHOOPS!
TRICKLE TRICKLE
Peirce
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NATE? HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE CATCH?
APR
LET'S GO, SON! THE BIG UNIT'S READY TO ROCK!
NATE! TIME'S A-WASTING!
4/12
STAY STILL... STAY VERRRY STILL.
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
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Peirce

THERE YOU ARE, NATE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU TO PLAY CATCH!
OH. REALLY?
I'VE BEEN CALLING AND CALLING! I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE TRYING TO AVOID ME! CHUCKLE!
ME? AVOID YOU? HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
4/13
I'VE GOT TO WORK ON MY CASUAL LAUGH.
Peirce
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I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE! MY DAD KEEPS HOUNDING ME TO PLAY CATCH ALL THE TIME! WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO PLAY CATCH?
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR DAD ACTS LIKE THAT?
WELL, HE'S NOT INTO SPORTS, SO HE NEVER ASKS ME TO PLAY CATCH.
4/14
YOU'RE SO LUCKY, DUDE.
NOT REALLY.
HE MAKES ME GARDEN WITH HIM.
OUCH.
Peirce
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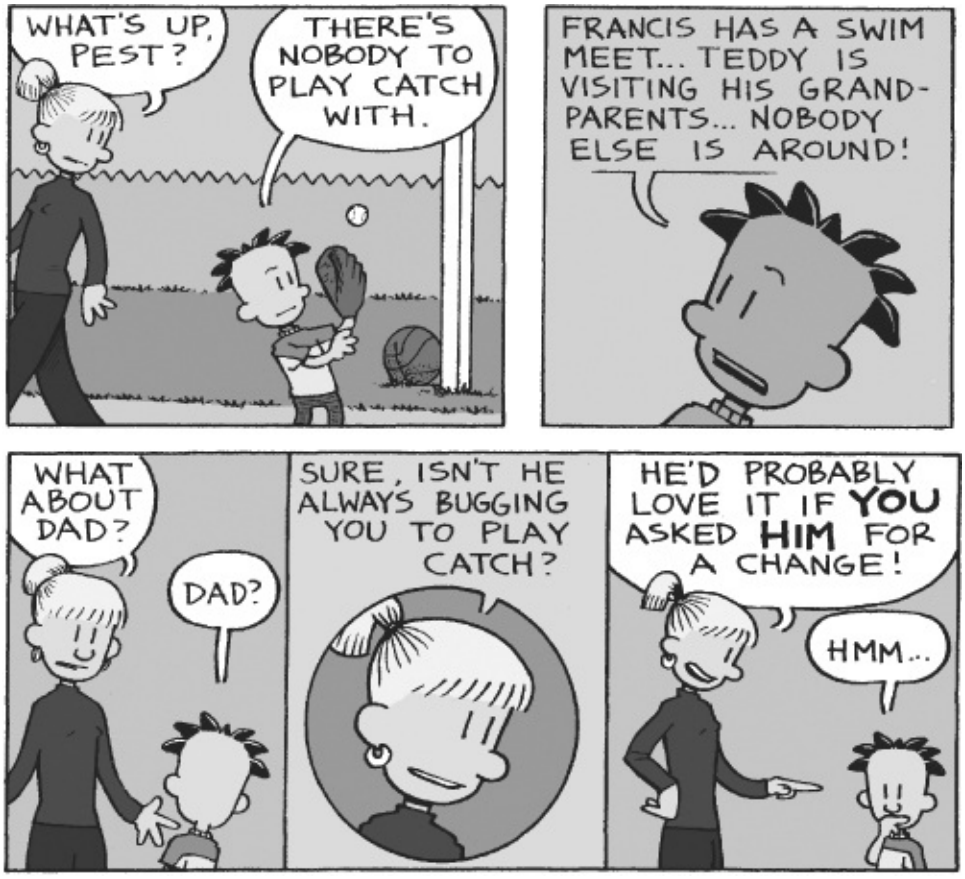
WHAT'S UP, PEST?
THERE'S NOBODY TO PLAY CATCH WITH.
FRANCIS HAS A SWIM MEET... TEDDY IS VISITING HIS GRAND-PARENTS... NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND!
WHAT ABOUT DAD?
DAD?
SURE, ISN'T HE ALWAYS BUGGING YOU TO PLAY CATCH?
HE'D PROBABLY LOVE IT IF YOU ASKED HIM FOR A CHANGE!
HMM...

→

YOU'RE RIGHT, ELLEN! I'LL GIVE HIM ONE OF THOSE FATHER-SON MOMENTS AND TOTALLY MAKE HIS DAY!
DAD! HEY, DAD! WANNA HUCK A BALL AROUND?
I'M TRYING TO DO MY TAXES!
WANNA PLAY CATCH?
Peirce

big NATE

NATE, YOU NEVER HANDED IN THE HOMEWORK ON THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE.
WHAT?
MR. GODFREY
BUT I DID THAT HOMEWORK! I DEFINITELY REMEMBER DOING IT!
WELL, I NEVER GOT IT.
CHECK YOUR DESK.
4/16
STAND BACK, EVERY-BODY!
I'M GOIN' IN.
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NATE, THIS DESK IS AN ABSOLUTE DIS-GRACE! TAKE THIS JUNK TO YOUR LOCKER!
OKAY.
4/18
FOOMM!
DONE.
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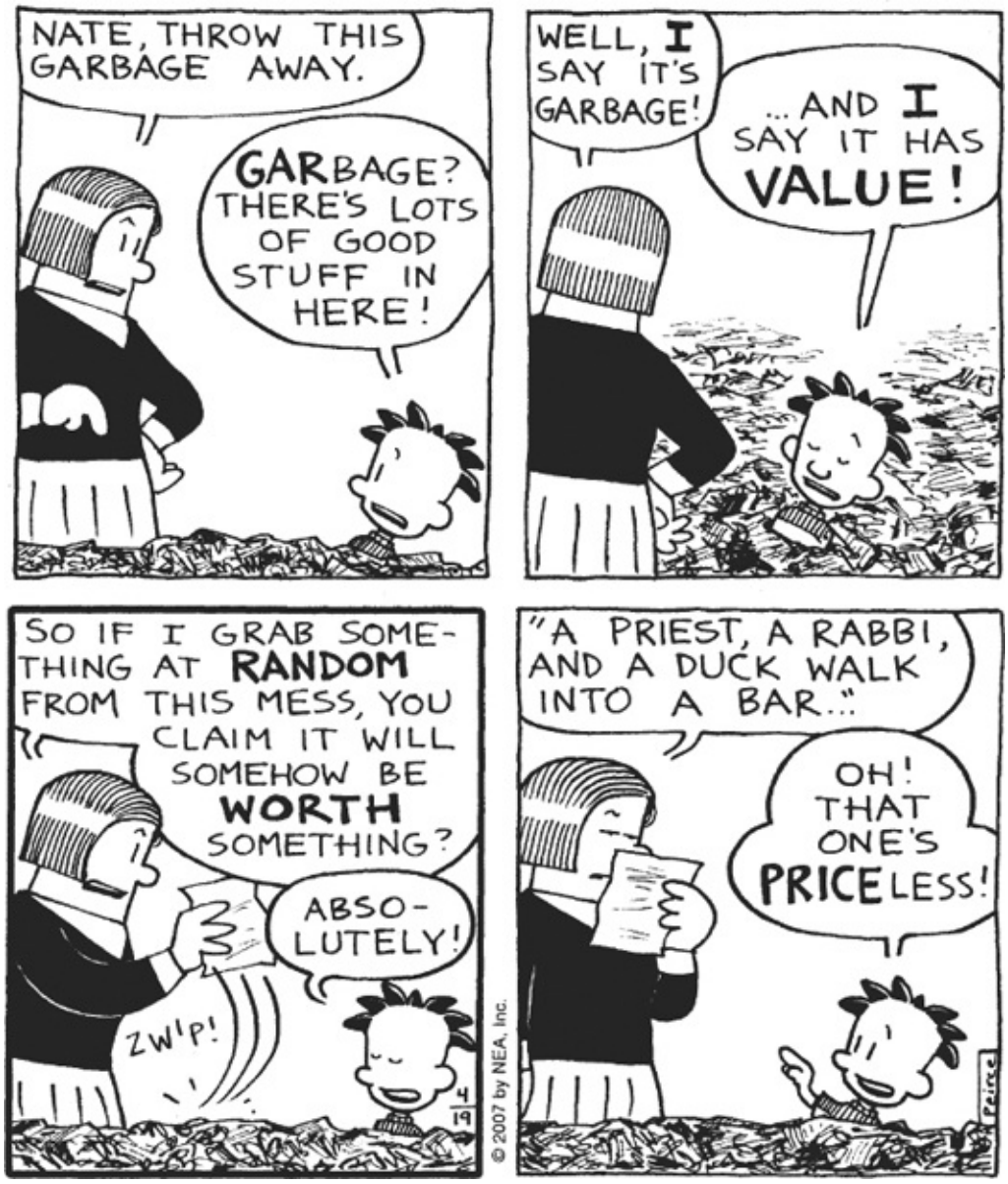
NATE, THROW THIS GARBAGE AWAY.
GARBAGE? THERE'S LOTS OF GOOD STUFF IN HERE!
WELL, I SAY IT'S GARBAGE!
... AND I SAY IT HAS VALUE!
SO IF I GRAB SOMETHING AT RANDOM FROM THIS MESS, YOU CLAIM IT WILL SOMEHOW BE WORTH SOMETHING?
ABSOLUTELY!
ZWIP!
4 19
"A PRIEST, A RABBI, AND A DUCK WALK INTO A BAR..."
OH! THAT ONE'S PRICELESS!
Peirce
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MY LOCKER MAY LOOK MESSY, MRS. GODFREY, BUT I ACTUALLY HAVE A VERY ORGANIZED FILING SYSTEM!
THIS STUFF RIGHT HERE IS MATH ... OVER HERE IS SCIENCE... ALL MY ENGLISH STUFF IS IN THIS AREA...
4/20
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS AREA?
UH... WAIT!...
RUSTLE RUSTLE
"MRS. GODFREY IS SO FAT, HER THIGHS HAVE LICENSE PLATES."
THAT'S PERSONAL! THAT'S PERSONAL!
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NATE, I'VE HEARD ENOUGH NONSENSE ABOUT YOUR LOCKER BEING SOME SORT OF PERSONAL TREASURE TROVE!
IT'S TRASH, PURE AND SIMPLE! AND I WANT IT CLEANED UP IN THE NEXT TEN MINUTES!!
NOT TWELVE MIN-UTES! NOT ELEVEN MINUTES! I EXPECT YOU... YOU...
4/21
NATE?
A MESSY LOCKER DOES HAVE ITS ADVAN-TAGES.
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CHESTER: PITCHING...
FRANCIS: CATCHING...
TEDDY: CENTER FIELD...
NATE: RIGHT FIELD...
AGAIN?
COACH
WELL, WHY NOT? YOU'RE A VERY GOOD RIGHT FIELDER!
YEAH, BUT...
NOTHING EVER HAPPENS OUT THERE!
THAT'S JUST THE WAY BASEBALL IS, NATE. SOMETIMES THEY HIT IT TO YOU, AND SOMETIMES THEY DON'T!
YEAH, I KNOW...

→

...BUT IT'S JUST SO BORING STANDING AROUND FOR NINE INNINGS!
JUST GET OUT THERE, NATE. I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND SOME WAY TO KEEP YOURSELF AMUSED.
COACH
Peirce

big NATE

MRS. GODFREY SAYS THAT IF I DON'T START KEEPING MY DESK AND LOCKER CLEAN, IT'LL AFFECT MY GRADE!
BETTER NEATEN UP, DUDE.
I CAN'T! I'VE TRIED, BUT I CAN'T!
I'M JUST A MESSY PERSON! I WAS BORN MESSY!
WELL, TECHNICALLY, I THINK EVERYONE'S BORN MESSY.
YEAH, REMEMBER THAT MOVIE WE SAW IN HEALTH CLASS?
CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE?
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READY TO GET HYPNO-TIZED?
I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK, FRANCIS.
YOU HAVE TO BE SUGGESTIBLE TO GET HYPNOTIZED! THAT'S NOT ME! MY WILL IS TOO STRONG! MY MIND IS TOO SHARP!
4/25
SNAP!
SHARP AS A SACK OF SAND.
ZZZZZZZZZ
I DO THAT SAME TRICK WITH MY GERBIL!
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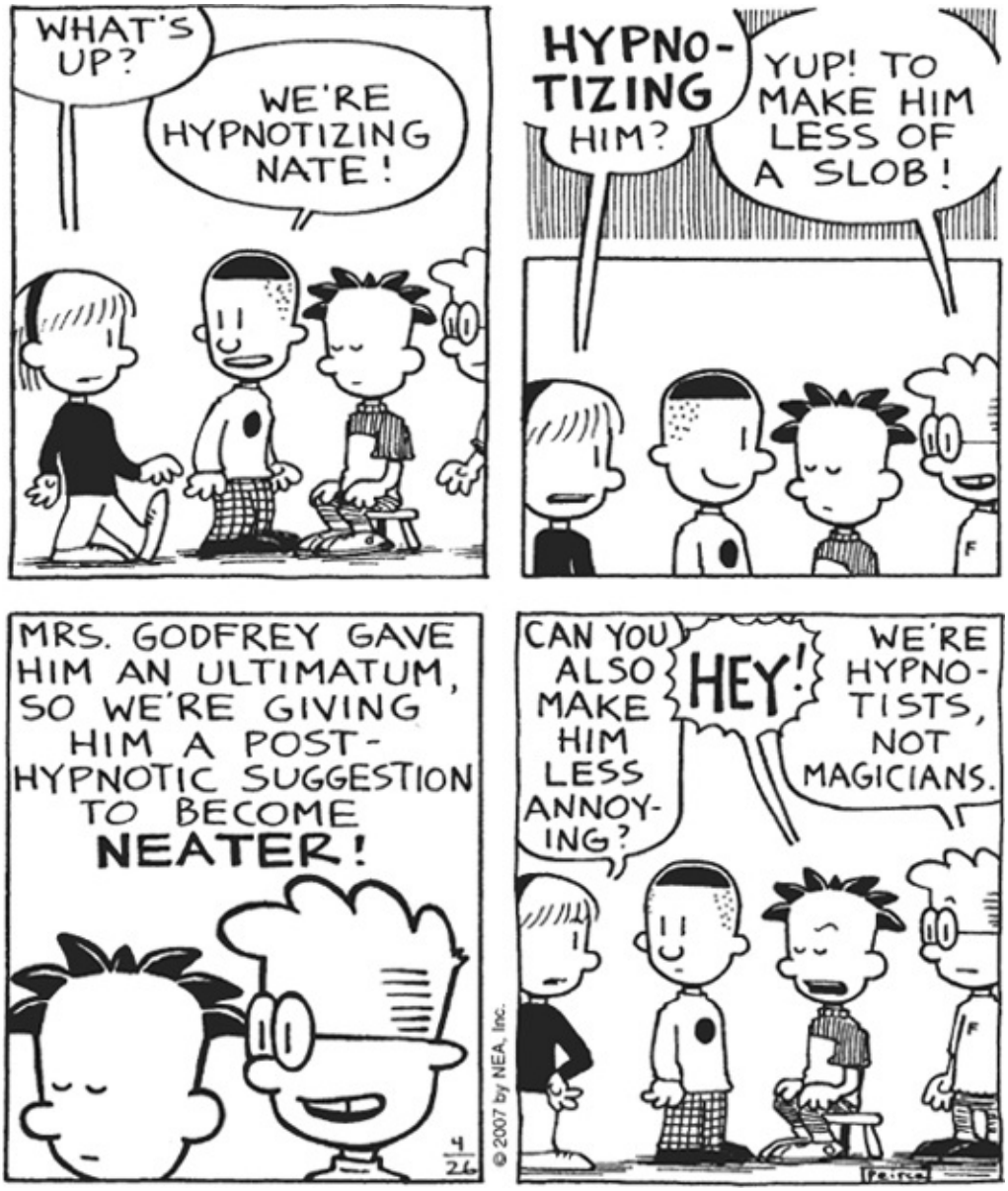
WHAT'S UP?
WE'RE HYPNOTIZING NATE!
HYPNO-TIZING HIM?
YUP! TO MAKE HIM LESS OF A SLOB!
MRS. GODFREY GAVE HIM AN ULTIMATUM, SO WE'RE GIVING HIM A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION TO BECOME NEATER!
4/24
CAN YOU ALSO MAKE HIM LESS ANNOY-ING?
HEY!
WE'RE HYPNO-TISTS, NOT MAGICIANS.
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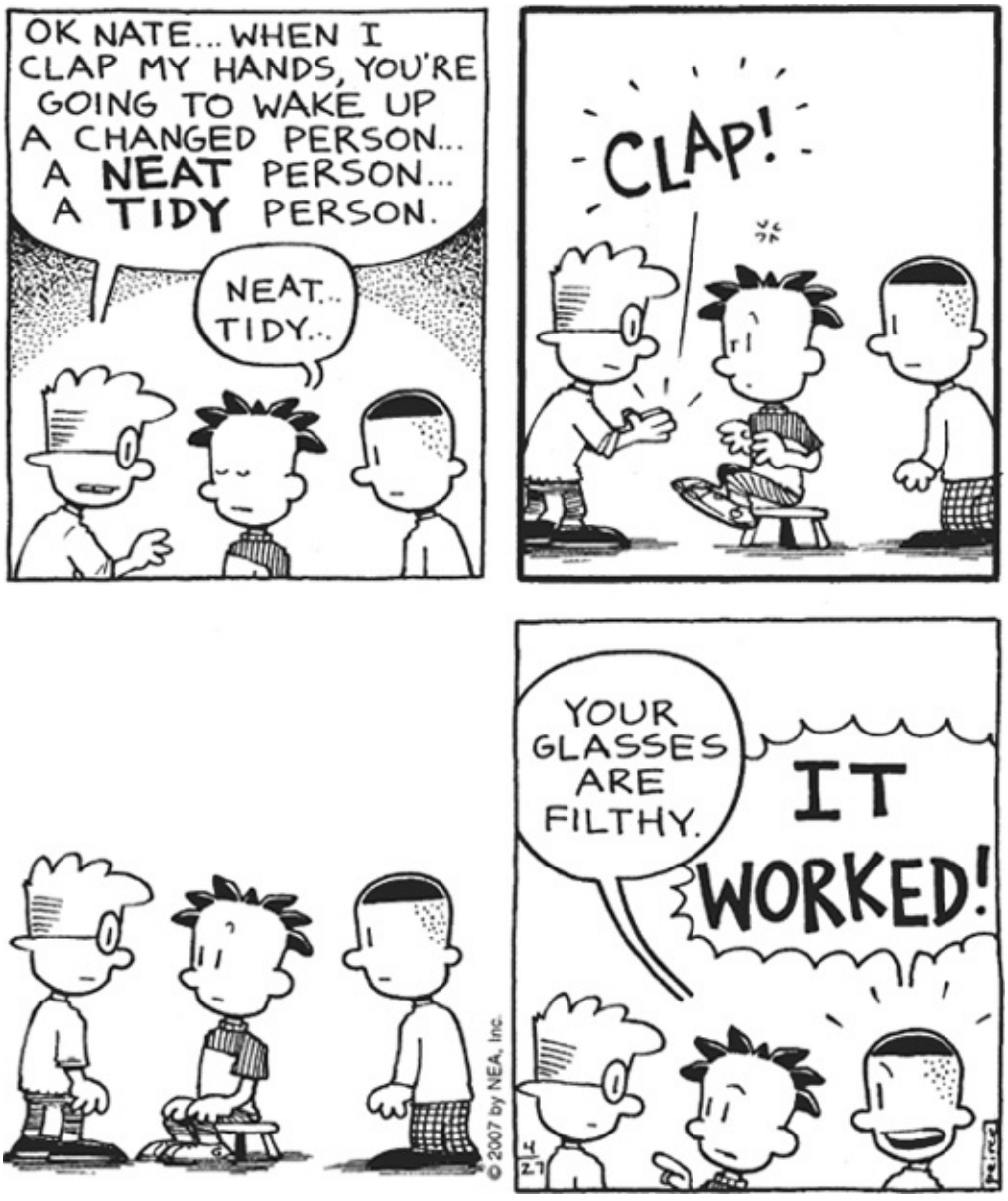
OK NATE... WHEN I CLAP MY HANDS, YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP A CHANGED PERSON... A NEAT PERSON... A TIDY PERSON.
NEAT.. TIDY..
CLAP!
YOUR GLASSES ARE FILTHY.
IT WORKED!
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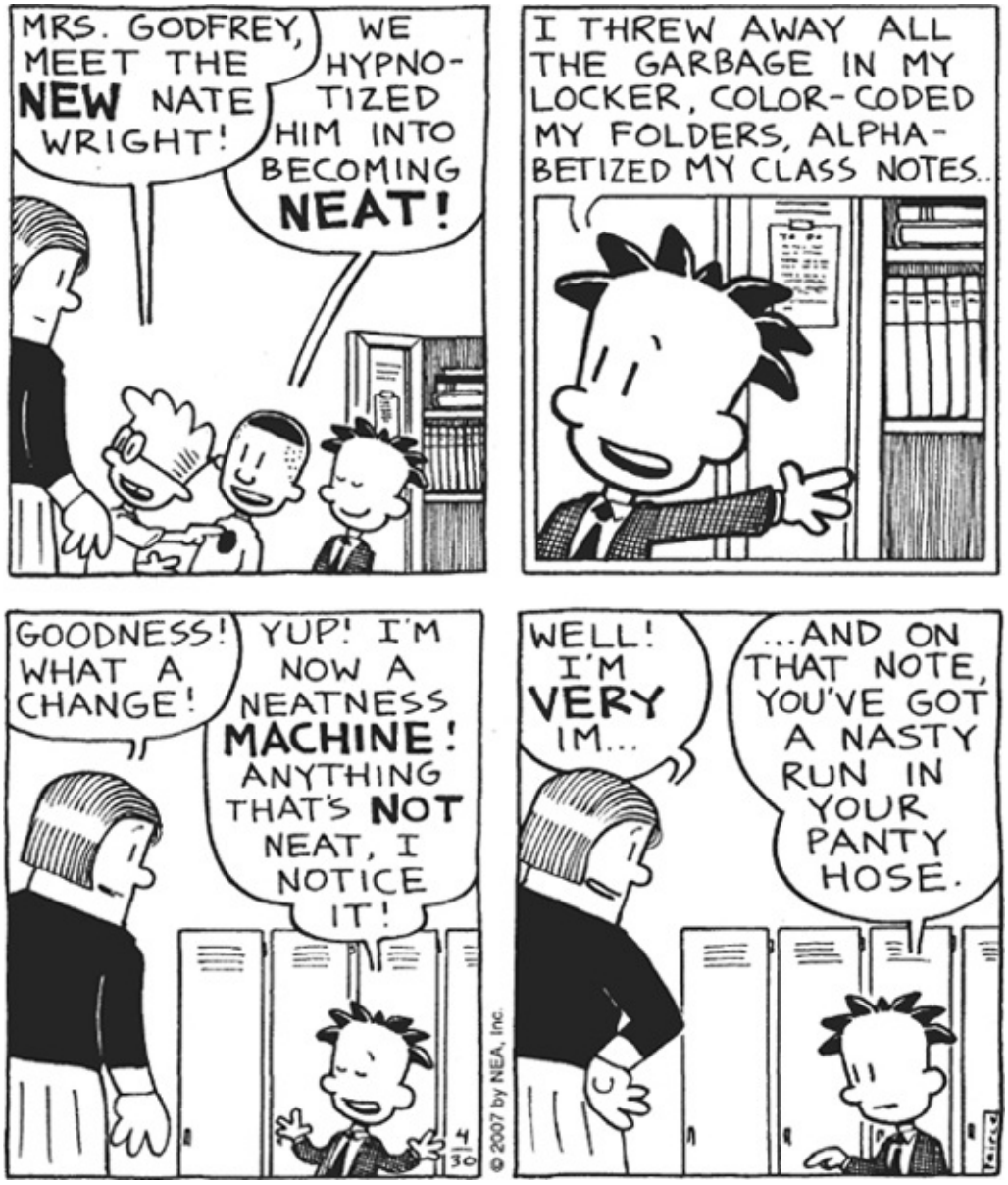
NATE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU TOLD ME TO KEEP MYSELF AMUSED.
NOT BY BRINGING A TROMBONE ONTO THE FIELD!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO PLAY BASEBALL WHEN YOU'RE...
KRAK!
CLANG!

→

HOME! HOME! HE'S COMIN' HOME!
BLAST!
WUMP!
Yer OUT!
!
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
ACH
Pearce

big NATE


MRS. GODFREY, MEET THE NEW NATE WRIGHT!
WE HYPNO-TIZED HIM INTO BECOMING NEAT!
I THREW AWAY ALL THE GARBAGE IN MY LOCKER, COLOR-CODED MY FOLDERS, ALPHA-BETIZED MY CLASS NOTES..
GOODNESS! WHAT A CHANGE!
YUP! I'M NOW A NEATNESS MACHINE! ANYTHING THAT'S NOT NEAT, I NOTICE IT!
WELL! I'M VERY IM...
...AND ON THAT NOTE, YOU'VE GOT A NASTY RUN IN YOUR PANTY HOSE.
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HERE'S MY HOMEWORK, MRS. GODFREY!
YOU WANT NEAT? YOU'VE GOT NEAT!
NO RIPS, NO WRINKLES, NO SMUDGES, NO STAINS! ABSOLUTELY NO MISTAKES OF ANY KIND!
5/1
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO ANSWER THE TEN QUESTIONS AT THE END OF CHAPTER TWO, NOT THE TWO QUESTIONS AT THE END OF CHAPTER TEN.
OKAY, ONE TEENSY LITTLE MISTAKE.
TRY AGAIN.
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JENNY, M'LADY! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NEW ME?
WHAT DO I CARE?
P&P RALLY!
I'VE BECOME NEAT, MY DEAR! NOTE THE NEW WARDROBE! NOT A WRINKLE OR CREASE ANYWHERE! I AM TOTALLY PUT TOGETHER!
SNORT! PUT A BOW TIE ON A PIG, IT'S STILL A PIG.
FOR SOME REASON, SHE WENT OFF ON SOME IRRELEVANT TANGENT ABOUT FARM ANIMALS.
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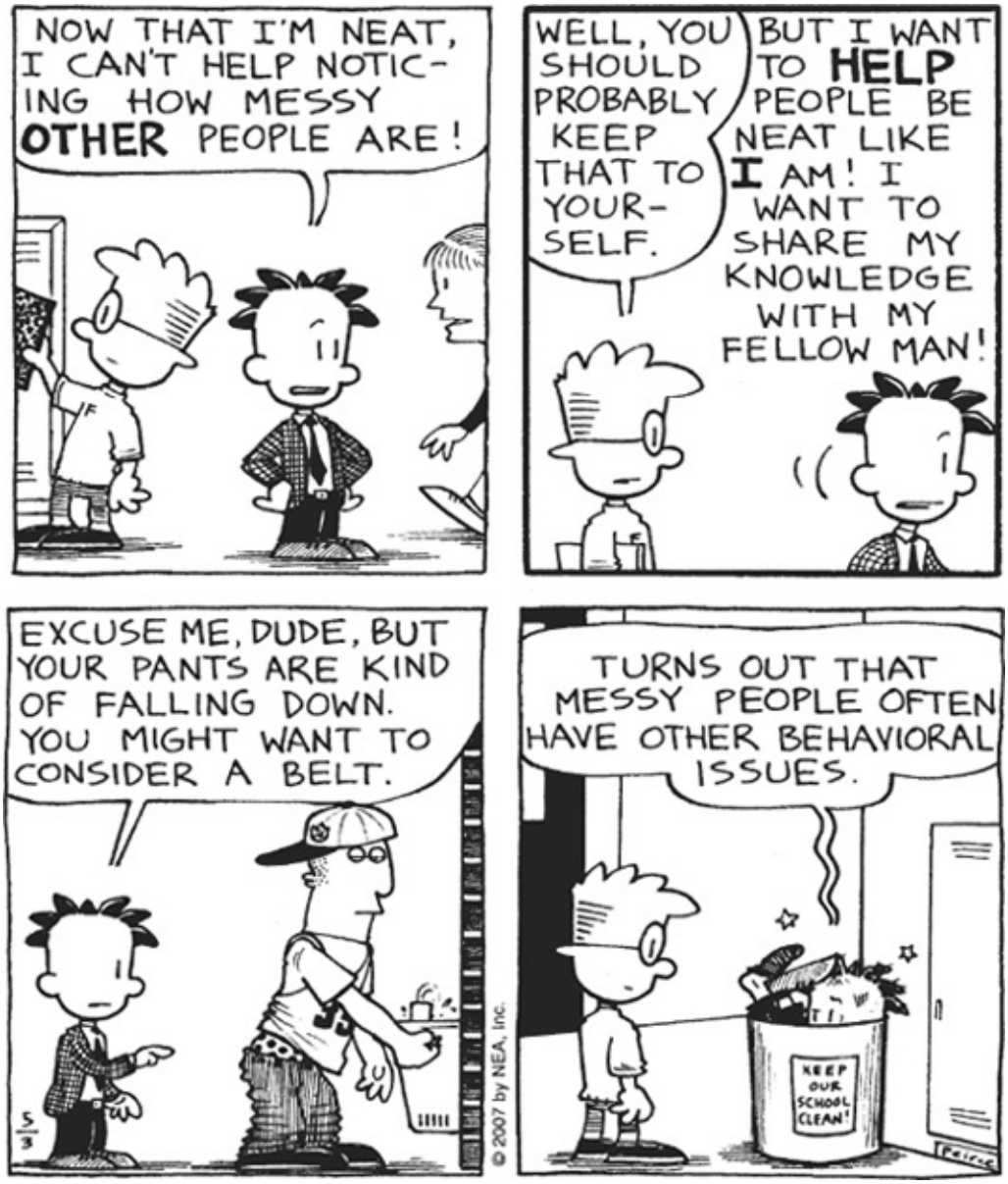

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I MEAN, THE GRASS IS SORT OF PATCHY... THERE'S A PUDDLE OVER THERE... AND ALL THESE ACORNS SEEM SORT OF... YOU KNOW... RANDOM.

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HI, MR. WRIGHT.
FRANCIS! I'VE BEEN HOPING TO SEE YOU!
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
!
$
WELL, DIDN'T YOU HYPNOTIZE NATE INTO BECOMING NEAT?
YEAH
CON-SIDER THAT A FINDER'S FEE.
I JUST WAXED THE FLOOR IN THE GARAGE!
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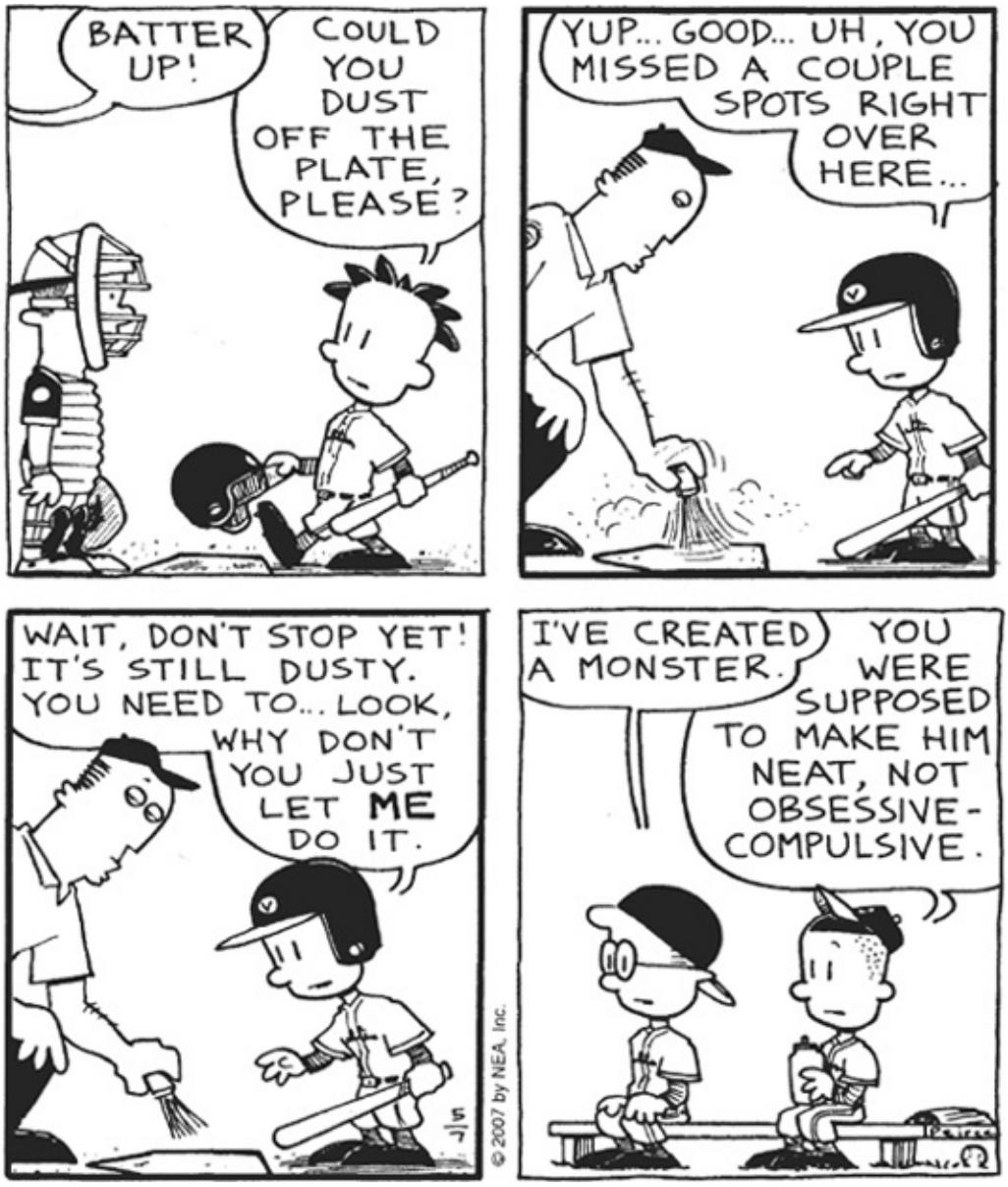
pairee

YANK!
SPUT!
SPUT!
DANG IT!
ALLOW ME, DAD! ALLOW ME!
THEY CALL ME THE "MOWER WHISPERER"!
YANK!
RRRRR

→

WOW! WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SORRY, DAD! TRADE SECRET!
RRRRRR
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MY JOB HERE IS DONE!
NOT QUITE.
!
RRRRRR

big NATE


BATTER UP!
COULD YOU DUST OFF THE PLATE, PLEASE?
YUP... GOOD... UH, YOU MISSED A COUPLE SPOTS RIGHT OVER HERE...
WAIT, DON'T STOP YET! IT'S STILL DUSTY. YOU NEED TO... LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET ME DO IT.
I'VE CREATED A MONSTER.
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE HIM NEAT, NOT OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE.
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WHAT'S UP, MR. CLEAN?
NOW THAT I'M NEAT, I... I DON'T THINK I CAN EAT MY LUNCH.
I MEAN, LOOK AT THESE CHEEZ DOODLES! LOOK HOW THE ORANGE POWDER GETS ALL OVER EVERYTHING!... IT'S DISGUSTING!
BUT YOU LOVE CHEEZ DOODLES!
I KNOW, BUT THEY... I WANT TO EAT THEM, BUT... THEY'RE TOO MESSY!
ARE YOU CRYING, DUDE?
I'LL EAT THEM!
THIS IS A NIGHT-MARE.
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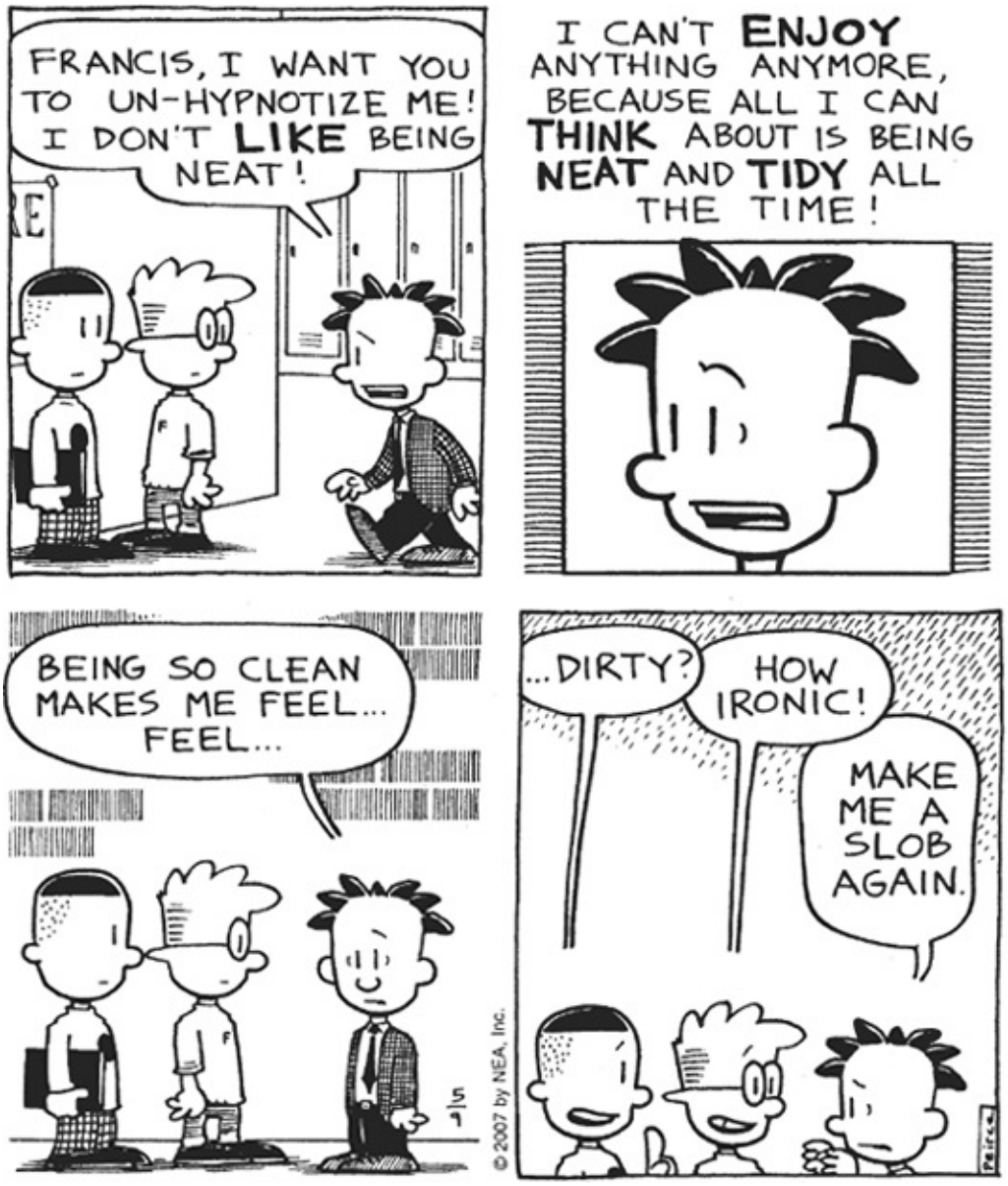
FRANCIS, I WANT YOU TO UN-HYPNOTIZE ME! I DON'T LIKE BEING NEAT!
I CAN'T ENJOY ANYTHING ANYMORE, BECAUSE ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS BEING NEAT AND TIDY ALL THE TIME!
BEING SO CLEAN MAKES ME FEEL... FEEL...
...DIRTY?
HOW IRONIC!
MAKE ME A SLOB AGAIN.
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NATE DOESN'T WANT TO BE NEAT ANY-MORE, SO FRANCIS IS UN-HYPNOTIZING HIM.
LET'S SEE IF IT WORKED.
SNAP!
BURRP!
5/10
THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
HOOO! PARDON MY PRINGLES!
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HERE'S MY HOME-WORK, MRS. G!
WHA-...? THIS IS A MESS!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEATNESS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS?
THAT'S OVER! I'M BACK TO MY OLD SELF!
5/12
BUT REST ASSURED: THE PAPER MAY LOOK A BIT SLOPPY ON THE SURFACE, BUT UNDERNEATH THE QUALITY OF MY WORK IS JUST THE SAME AS EVER!
OH, GOODY.
OOP! ALMOST FORGOT! HERE'S PAGE TWO!
Peirce
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WELL! HELLO, NATE!
HI, MR. EUSTIS! WOULD SPITSY LIKE TO GO FOR A WALK?
I'M SURE HE'D LOVE IT!
GREAT! C'MON, SPITSY!
wurf!
HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A COUPLE OF BUCKS.
NOPE! NOT TODAY!
I'M WORKING ON MY "GOOD NEIGHBOR" MERIT BADGE! I'M SUPPOSED TO DO RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS!
THIS ISN'T A PAYING JOB! THIS IS JUST TO BE NICE!

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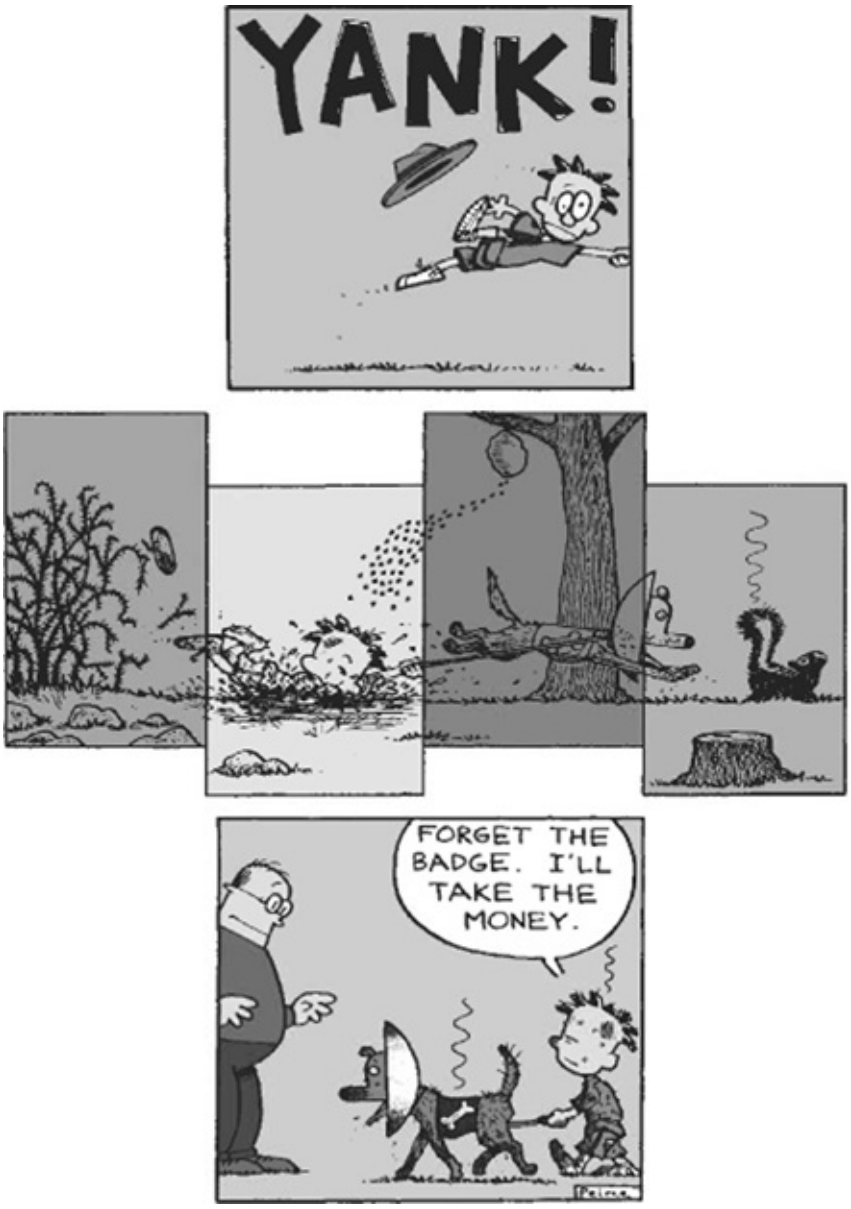

big NATE

NATE, I WANT YOU TO COVER TONIGHT'S SCHOOL BOARD MEETING FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE "WEEKLY BUGLE."
THE SCHOOL BOARD MEET-ING?
THEY'LL BE DISCUSSING NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET! IT'S AN IMPORTANT STORY!
GINA, THOSE MEETINGS ARE YAWN CITY!
WHY DO I HAVE TO COVER THAT STORY? WHY CAN'T I DO THE STORY IDEA I PROPOSED?
5/14
"A SEARCH FOR THE SCHOOL'S MOST BOOTY-LICIOUS CHEER-LEADER"?
ONE REPORTER'S QUEST! UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!
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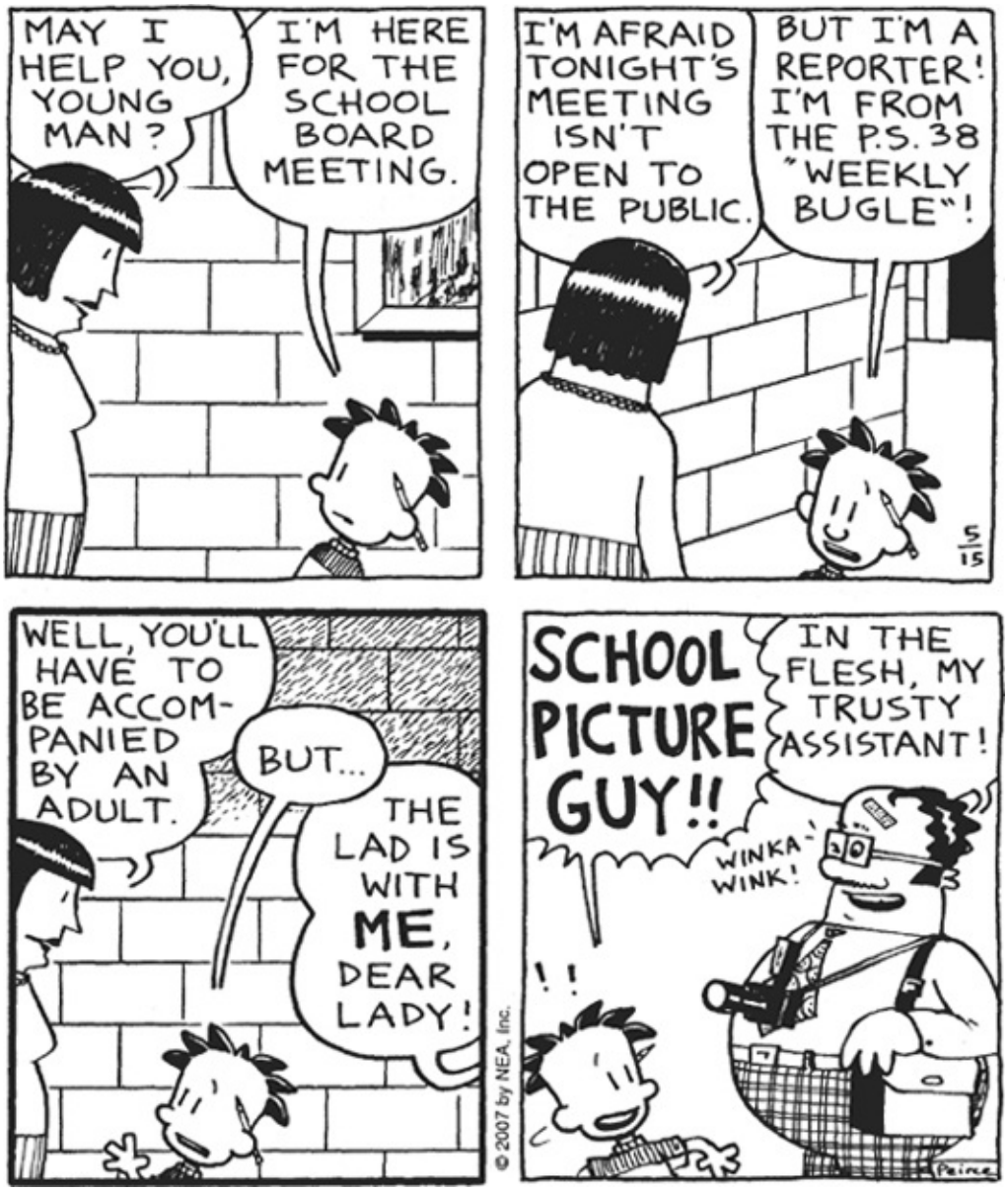

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FIRST TIME AT A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, AMIGO?
YUP
WELL, LET ME GIVE YOU THE LAY OF THE LAND, MY FRIEND! I'VE ATTENDED MANY OF THESE IN MY CAPACITY AS A FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER!
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE PROP-ERLY EQUIPPED!
WHAT'S IN THERE?
DOUGHNUTS, KID. THESE MEETINGS GIVE ME THE MUNCHIES.
5/16
Patty
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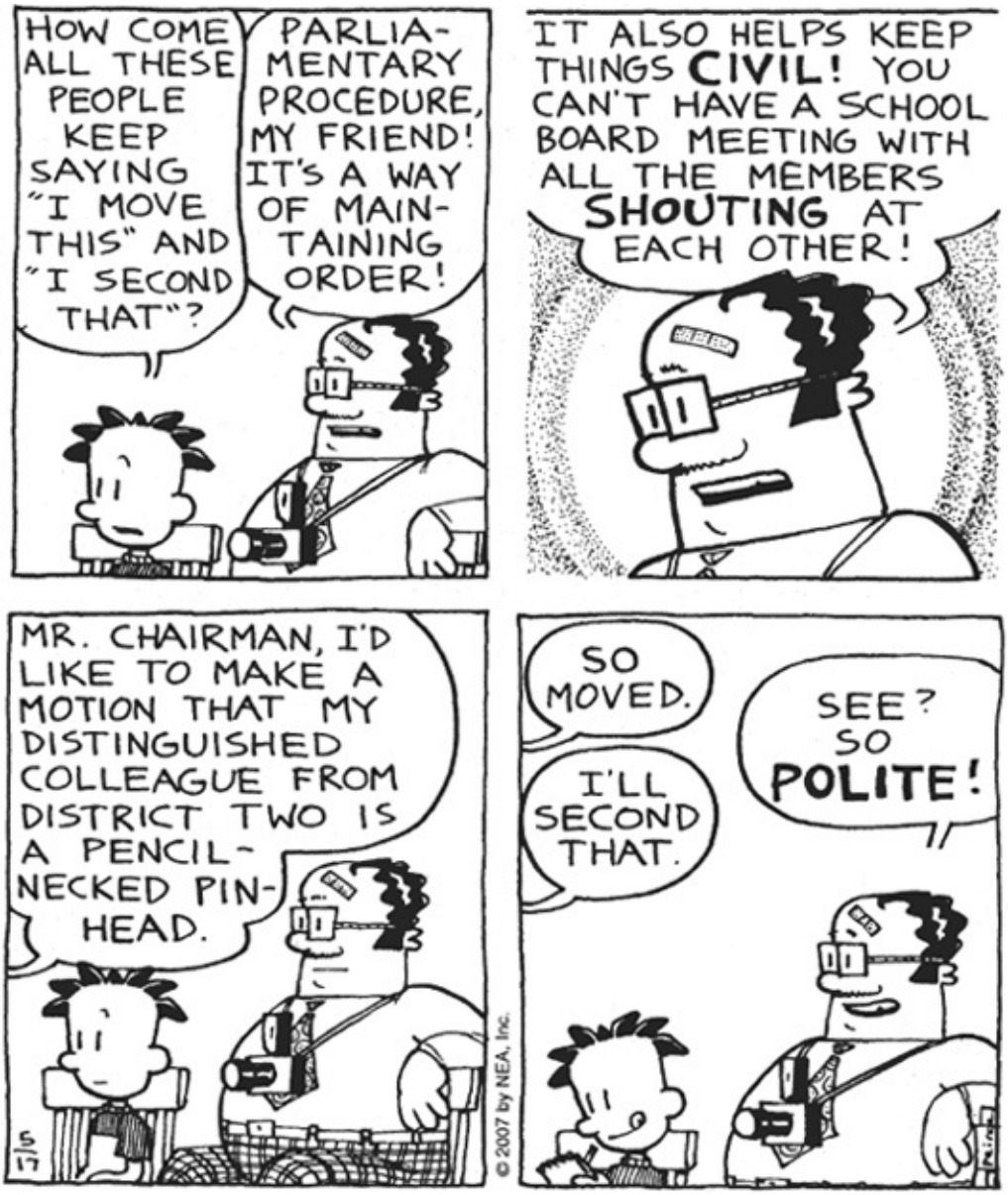
HOW COME ALL THESE PEOPLE KEEP SAYING "I MOVE THIS" AND "I SECOND THAT"?
PARLIA-MENTARY PROCEDURE, MY FRIEND! IT'S A WAY OF MAIN-TAINING ORDER!
IT ALSO HELPS KEEP THINGS CIVIL! YOU CAN'T HAVE A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING WITH ALL THE MEMBERS SHOUTING AT EACH OTHER!
MR. CHAIRMAN, I'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION THAT MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FROM DISTRICT TWO IS A PENCIL-NECKED PIN-HEAD.
SO MOVED.
I'LL SECOND THAT.
SEE? SO POLITE!
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I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING PICTURES.
MERELY WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT, KID.
MUNCH MUNCH
AT ANY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, THERE'S A POINT WHEN TEMPERS FLARE AND DECORUM BREAKS DOWN! THAT'S WHEN YOU GET THE GOOD PHOTOS!
YOU WANT TO ELIMINATE THE DRAMA PROGRAM?? ARE YOU INSANE?
5/18
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SPEAKING OF DRAMA, MARGE... CAN YOU PUT DOWN THE SCISSORS?
THIS IS JUST THE PREGAME, KID. WAIT 'TIL THEY DISCUSS THE FOOTBALL BUDGET.

...MMPH!... I FELL ASLEEP! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THEY'RE GOING OVER THE SCHOOL BUDGET, LINE BY LINE.
RIGHT NOW THEY'RE DISCUSSING THE "GIFTED AND TALENTED" PROGRAM, OF WHICH I WAS A PART BACK IN THE DAY!
YOU WERE "GIFTED AND TALENTED"?
I WAS INDEED, MON AMI!
WAIT, WAIT. YOU WERE...?
I SAID YES, KID. GO BACK TO SLEEP.
5/9
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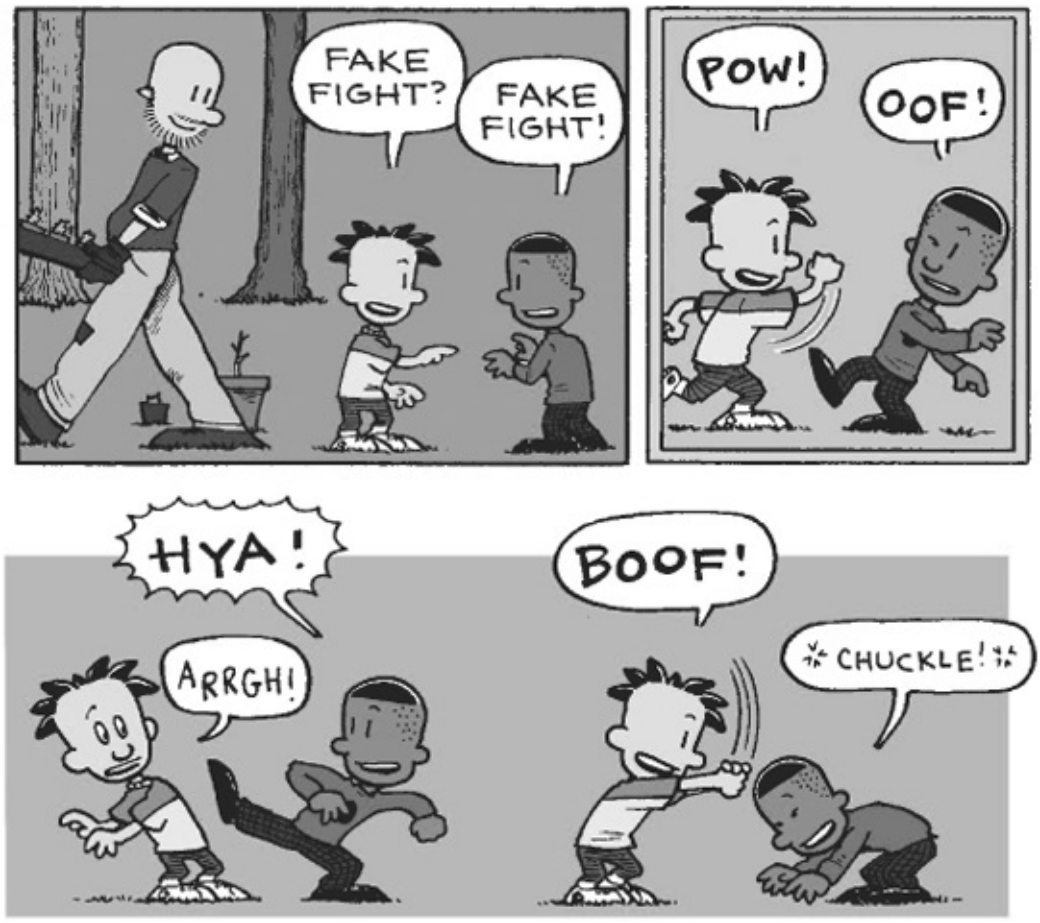
FAKE FIGHT?
FAKE FIGHT!
POW!
OOF!
HYA!
ARRGH!
BOOF!
CHUCKLE!

→

FOOM!
HEY!
YOU CLIPPED ME FOR REAL!
OW!
SHOVE!
DON'T PUNK ME, MAN!
YOU STARTED IT, SCRUB!
LOOKS LIKE FUN, DOESN'T IT?
IF YOU SAY SO.
OW! I'M BLEEDING, YOU JERK!
JERK THIS, WUSSY BOY!
reirce

big NATE

MR. GALVIN, WHAT ARE WE DOING IN CLASS TODAY?
PHOTO-SYNTHESIS.
WELL... CARE TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE... INTER-ESTING?
MORE INTER...? WHAT?
5/21
ARE YOU SUGGESTING SOME SORT OF WAGER?
UH... I WAS SUGGESTING MAYBE A FILMSTRIP.
YEAH, PHOTO-SYNTHESIS IS REALLY BORING.
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MR. GALVIN, THE CLASS HAS APPOINTED ME AS ITS SPOKESMAN.
SPOKES-MAN FOR WHAT?
WE WANT TO STOP STUDYING PHOTO-SYNTHESIS AND START STUDY-ING SOMETHING GOOD!
"GOOD"?
WELL, THAT'S FASCIN-ATING, NATE. SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT SUBJECT MATTER WOULD QUALIFY AS "GOOD."
WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO EITHER HUMAN REPRODUCTION OR A FIELD TRIP TO "SEA WORLD."
CRIPES.
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5/23
WATTERSON

MR. GALVIN NEEDS TO LIGHTEN UP.
HEY, THERE'S A NEWS FLASH.
I'M SERIOUS! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE MAN LAUGH?
LAUGH? I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM SMILE!
I'LL BET I COULD GET A CHUCKLE OUT OF HIM!
YOU? HOW?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY LEGENDARY ARSENAL OF "KNOCK KNOCK" JOKES?
SADLY, NO.
"ARSENAL" IS RIGHT.
5/24
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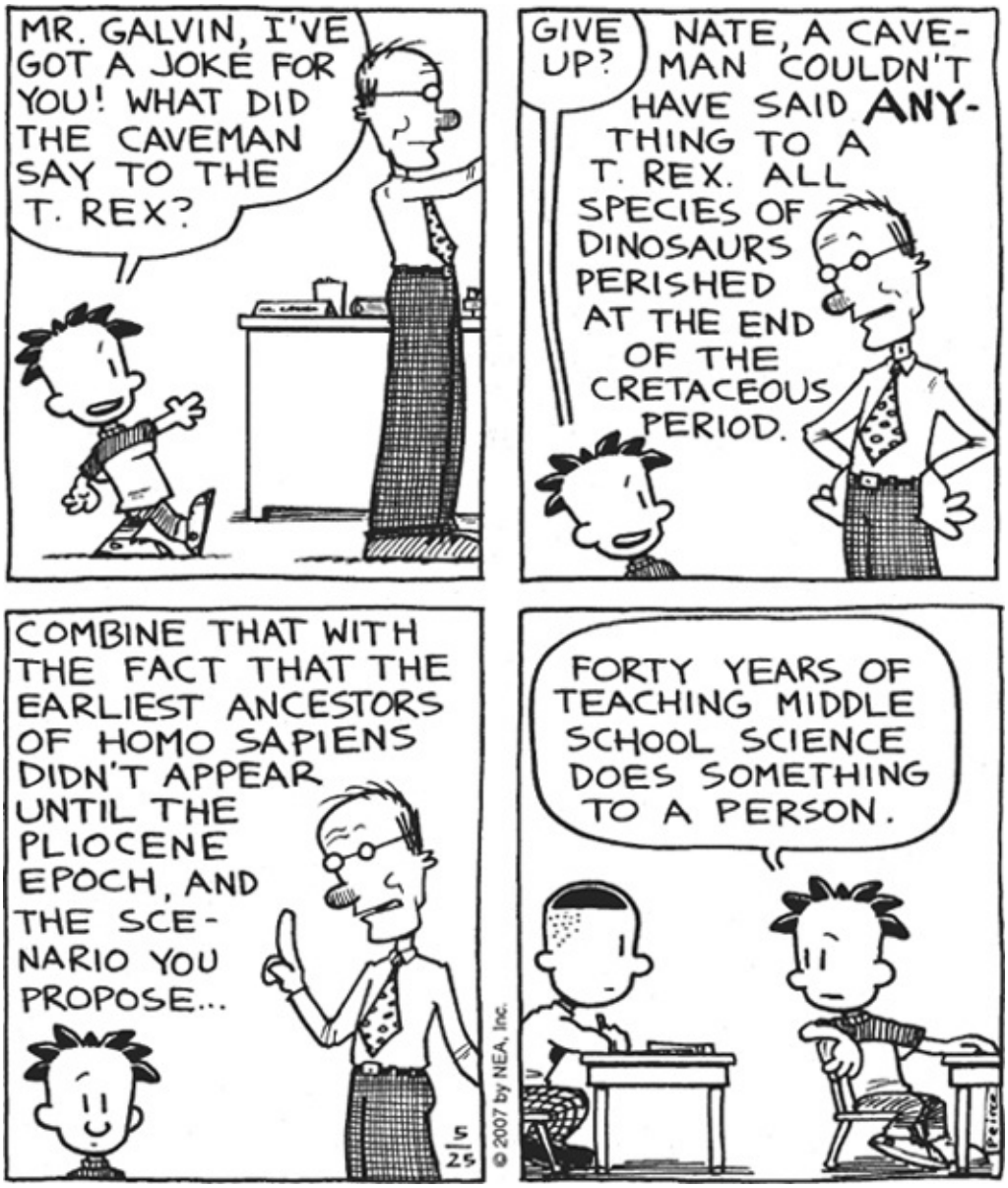

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OKAY, MR. GALVIN... HERE'S A JOKE I THINK YOU'LL APPREC- IATE!
WHAT DID THE THEORETICAL PHYSICIST USE TO DRINK HIS BEER?
AN EIN- STEIN!
WA HA HA HA HA HO HO HA
WHAT KIND OF A SCIENCE TEACHER DOESN'T LAUGH AT A JOKE ABOUT THEORETICAL PHYSICS?
5/26
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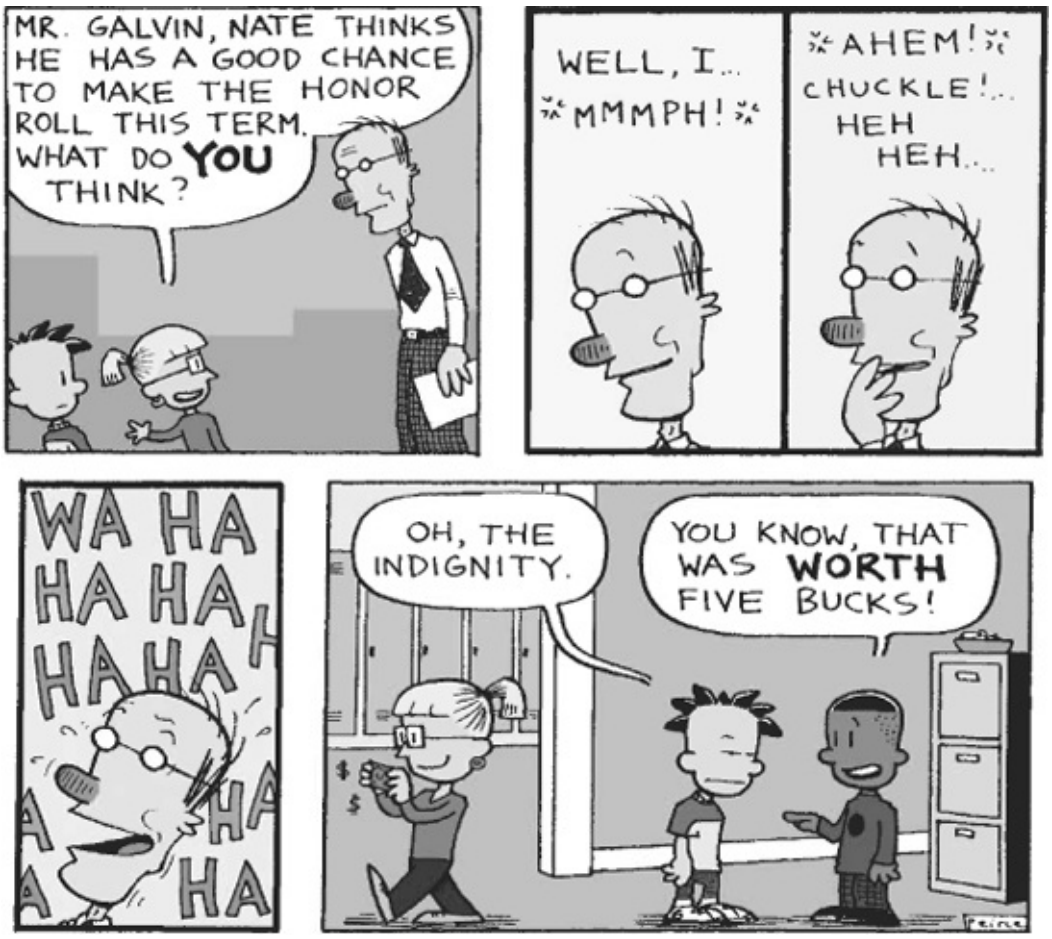
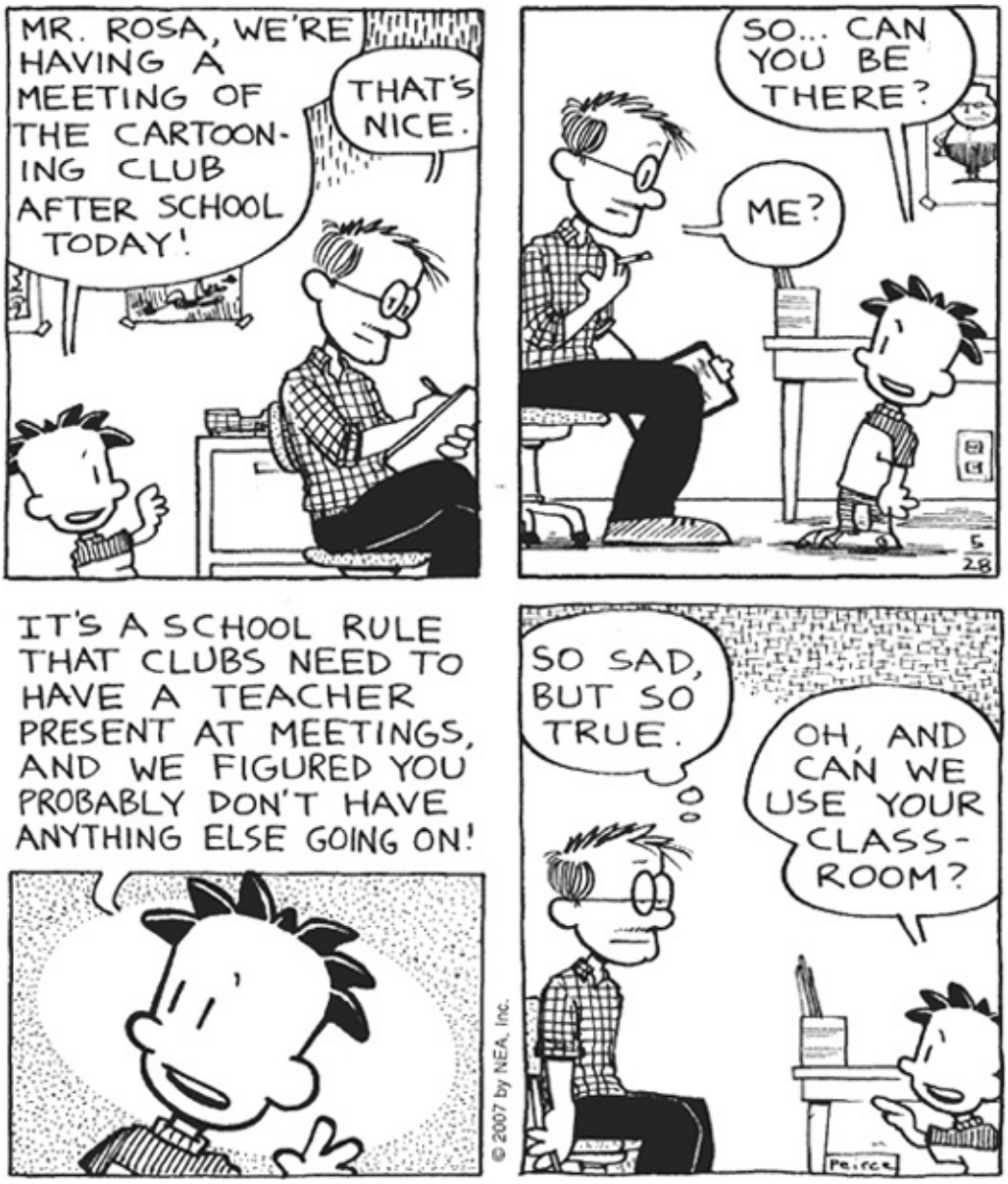
I'VE BEEN TRYING ALL WEEK TO GET MR. GALVIN TO LAUGH, BUT IT'S IM-POSSIBLE!
I'VE TOLD HIM EVERY JOKE I KNOW! EVERY RIDDLE!!
... BUT NOTH-ING!
I CAN GET HIM TO LAUGH!
YOU?? SNORT! RIGHT, GINA!
I'LL BET YOU FIVE BUCKS!
YOU'RE ON!
FOLLOW ME!

→


MR. GALVIN, NATE THINKS HE HAS A GOOD CHANCE TO MAKE THE HONOR ROLL THIS TERM. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, I...
MMMPH!
AHEM!
CHUCKLE!...
HEH HEH...
WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
OH, THE INDIGNITY.
YOU KNOW, THAT WAS WORTH FIVE BUCKS!

big NATE



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GUYS, I CONVINCED CHAD TO JOIN THE CARTOONING CLUB!
COOL!
HEY, CHAD.
PULL UP A CHAIR, CHAD!
UH... WHERE ARE ALL THE GIRLS?
YOU SAID THERE WERE LOTS OF GIRLS AT THESE MEETINGS.
RIGHT! GIRLS WE DRAW!
MY NEWEST CHARACTER: RAMONA BOMBSHELLE!
ROWR! HEL-LO!
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WHEN DRAWING COMICS, CHAD, COMING UP WITH THE RIGHT SOUND EFFECT IS CRUCIAL!
ALMOST ANY SITUATION CAN BE MADE FUNNY BY THE ADDITION OF A HUMOROUS SOUND EFFECT!
KLONG!
5/30
PROPS ARE ALSO KEY!
OW!
YOU'RE BOTH RIGHT!
Peirce
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.

I NEED A SOUND EFFECT. WHAT DOES A GARBAGE DISPOSAL SOUND LIKE?
SORT OF LIKE:
KRPBLKRPB!
YES! YES! THAT'S PERFECT!
HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT?
JUST LIKE IT SOUNDS.
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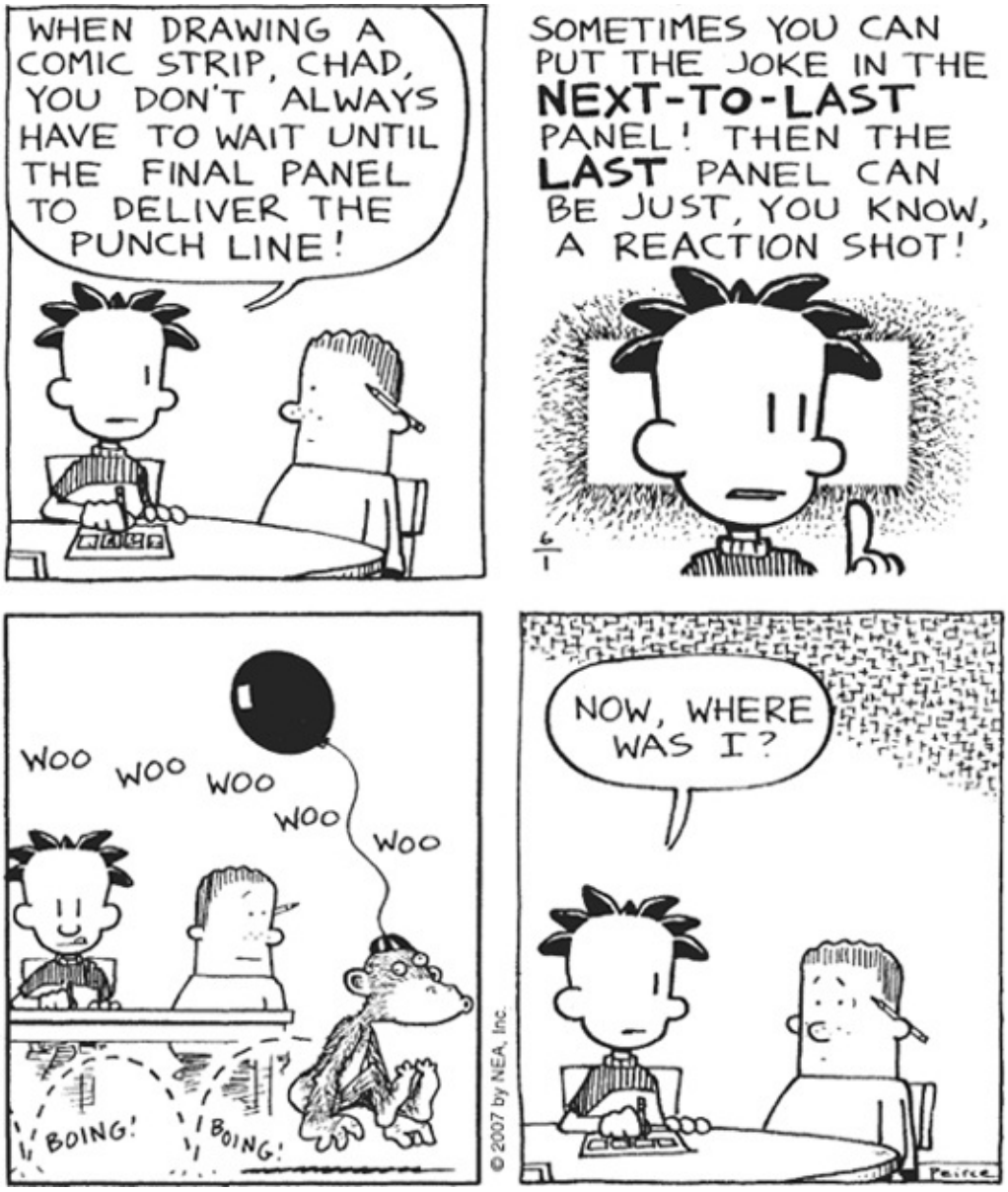
WHEN DRAWING A COMIC STRIP, CHAD, YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE FINAL PANEL TO DELIVER THE PUNCH LINE!
SOMETIMES YOU CAN PUT THE JOKE IN THE NEXT-TO-LAST PANEL! THEN THE LAST PANEL CAN BE JUST, YOU KNOW, A REACTION SHOT!
6/1
WOO WOO WOO WOO WOO
BOING! BOING!
NOW, WHERE WAS I?
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Peirce

MR. ROSA, ARE WE ALLOWED TO DRAW COMICS ABOUT TEACHERS?
PROVIDED THEY'RE NOT IN-APPROPRIATE.
CLUB
"INAPPROPRIATE"?
YOU KNOW... MEAN-SPIRITED.
"MEAN-SPIRITED"?
NEEDLESSLY CRUEL.
6/2
DEFINE "NEEDLESSLY."
TELL YOU WHAT, SON, WHY DON'T YOU JUST FOCUS ON SUPERHEROES FOR NOW.
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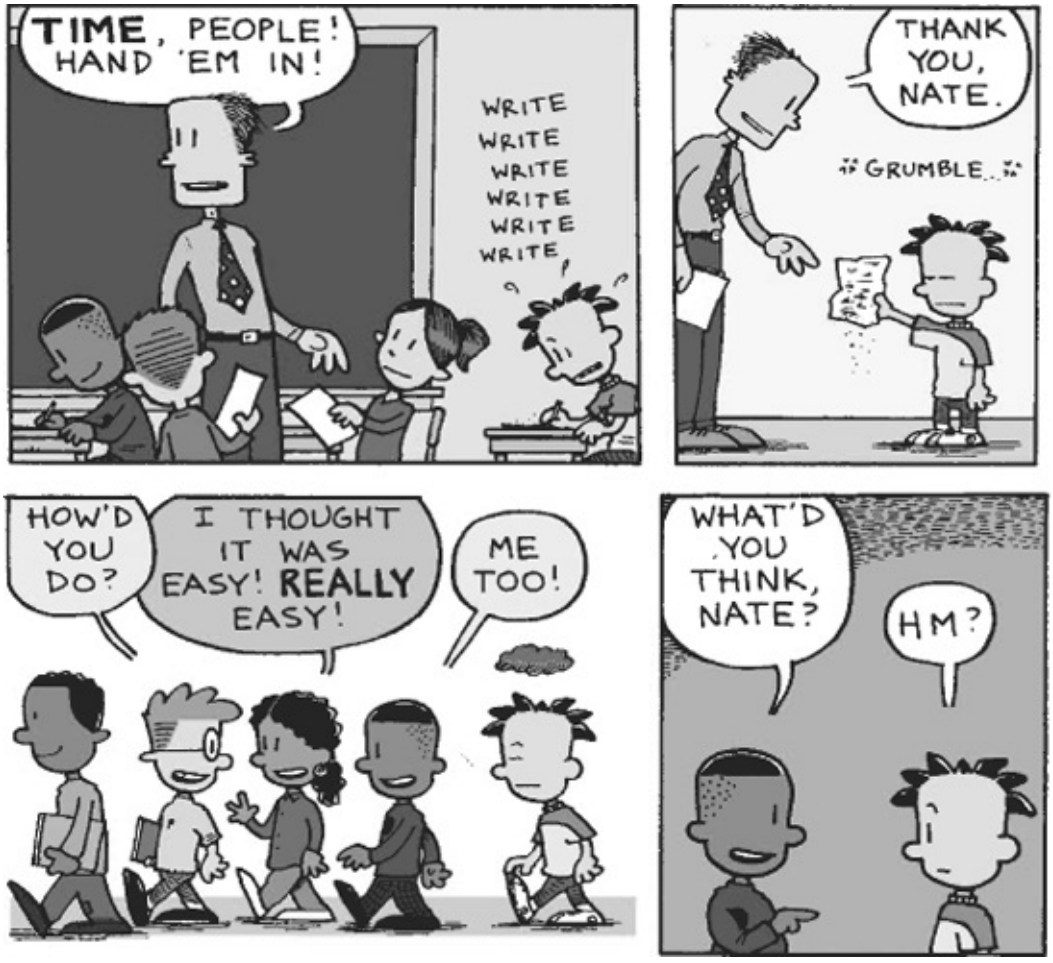
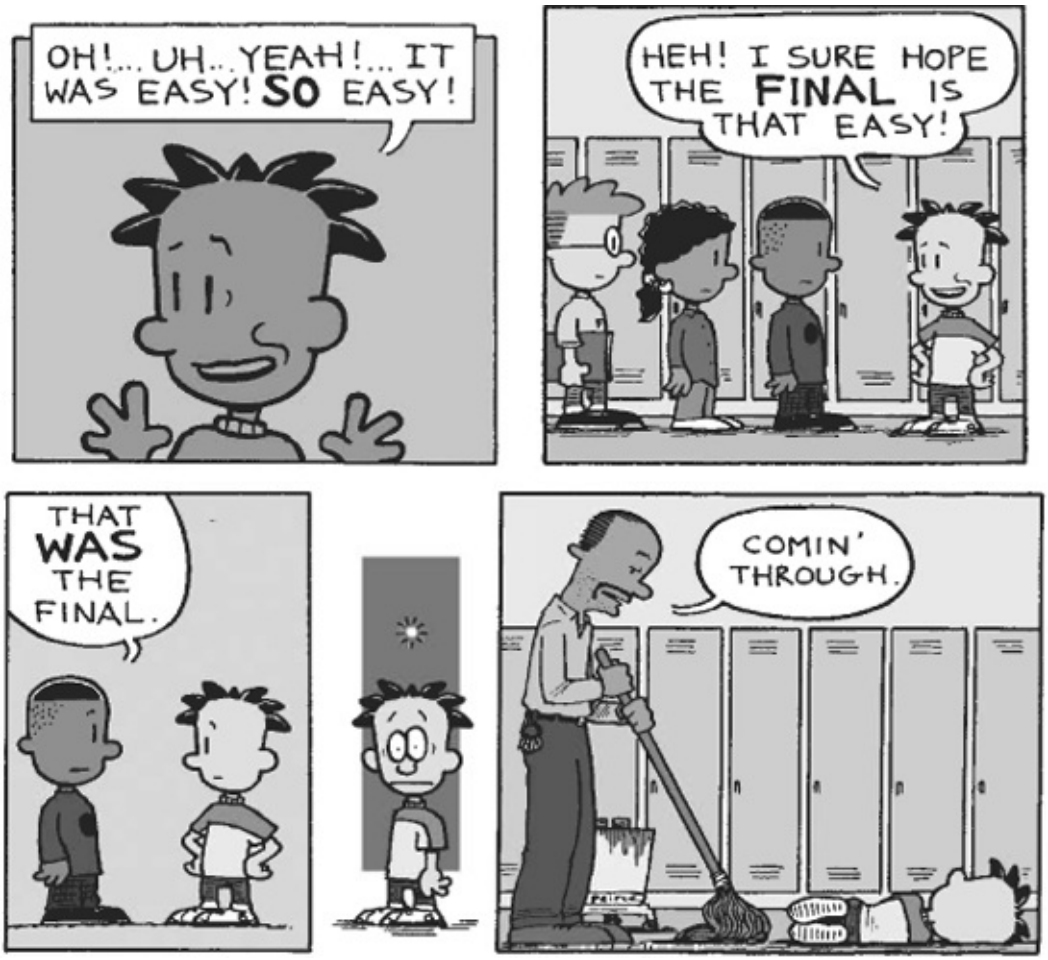
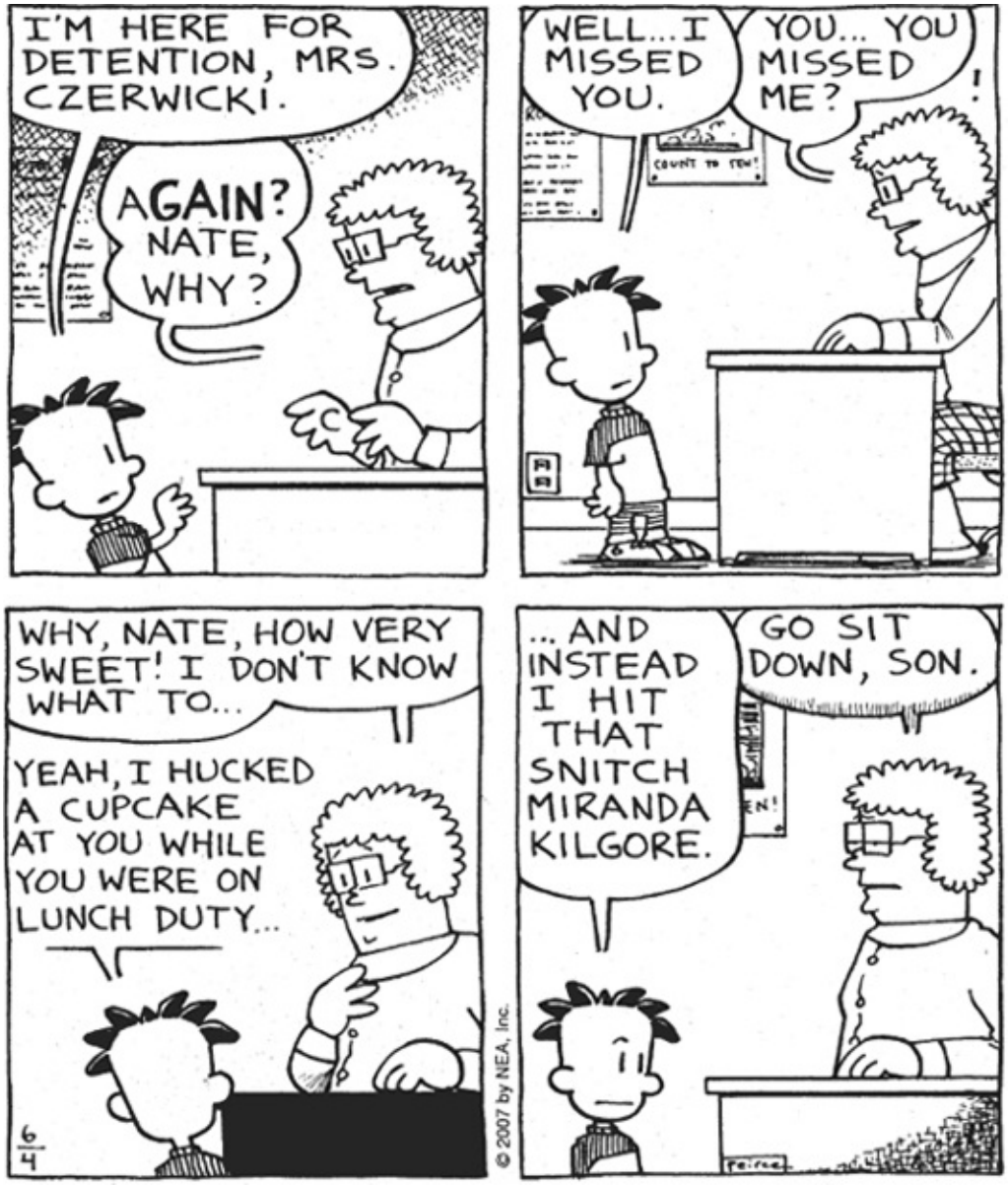

TIME, PEOPLE! HAND 'EM IN!
WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE WRITE
THANK YOU, NATE.
GRUMBLE...
HOW'D YOU DO?
I THOUGHT IT WAS EASY! REALLY EASY!
ME TOO!
WHAT'D YOU THINK, NATE?
HM?

→


OH!... UH... YEAH!... IT WAS EASY! SO EASY!
HEH! I SURE HOPE THE FINAL IS THAT EASY!
THAT WAS THE FINAL.
COMIN' THROUGH.

big NATE


I'M HERE FOR DETENTION, MRS. CZERWICKI.
AGAIN? NATE, WHY?
WELL... I MISSED YOU.
YOU... YOU MISSED ME?!
COUNT TO TEN!
WHY, NATE, HOW VERY SWEET! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO...
YEAH, I HUCKED A CUPCAKE AT YOU WHILE YOU WERE ON LUNCH DUTY...
6/4
... AND INSTEAD I HIT THAT SNITCH MIRANDA KILGORE.
GO SIT DOWN, SON.
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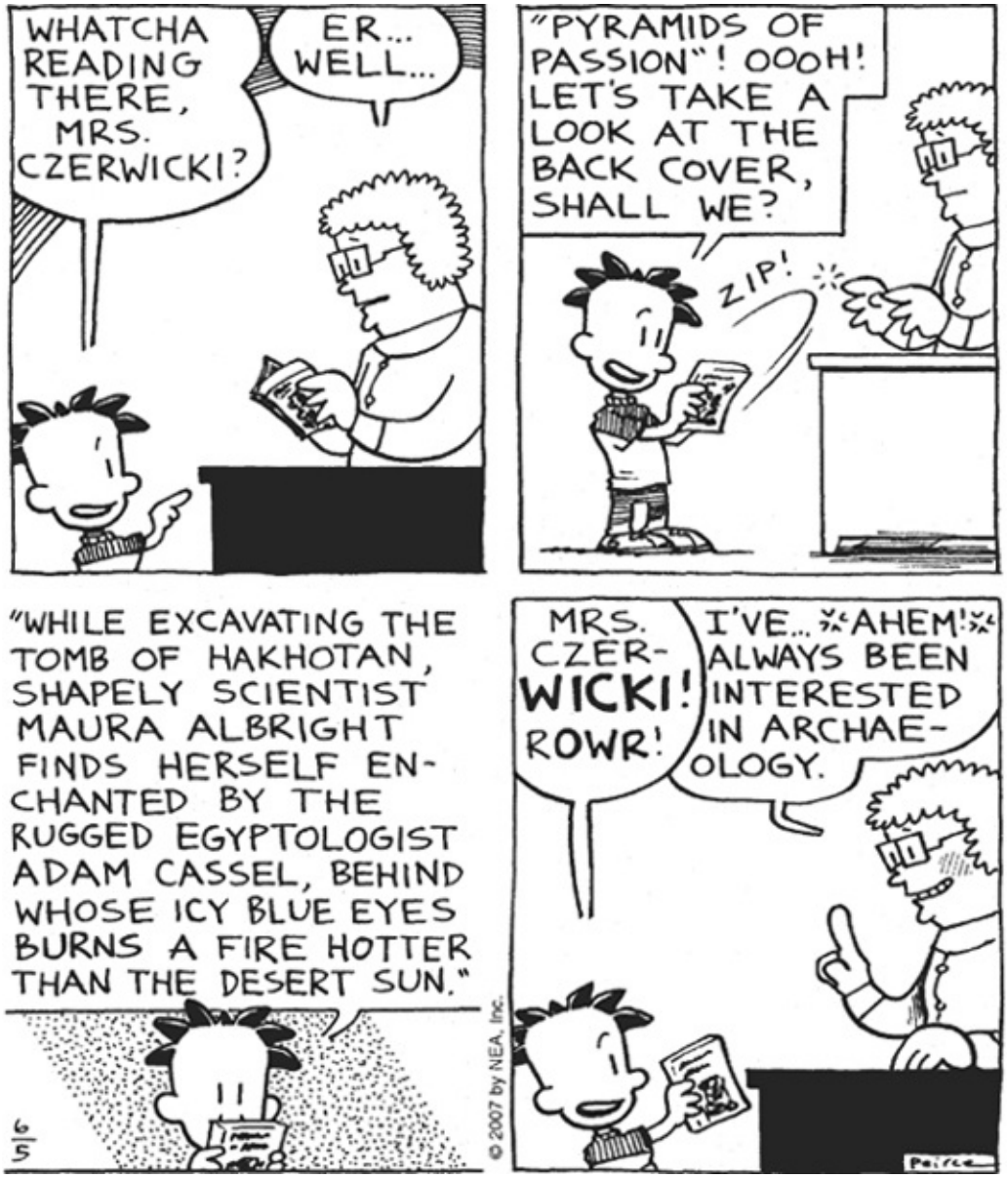
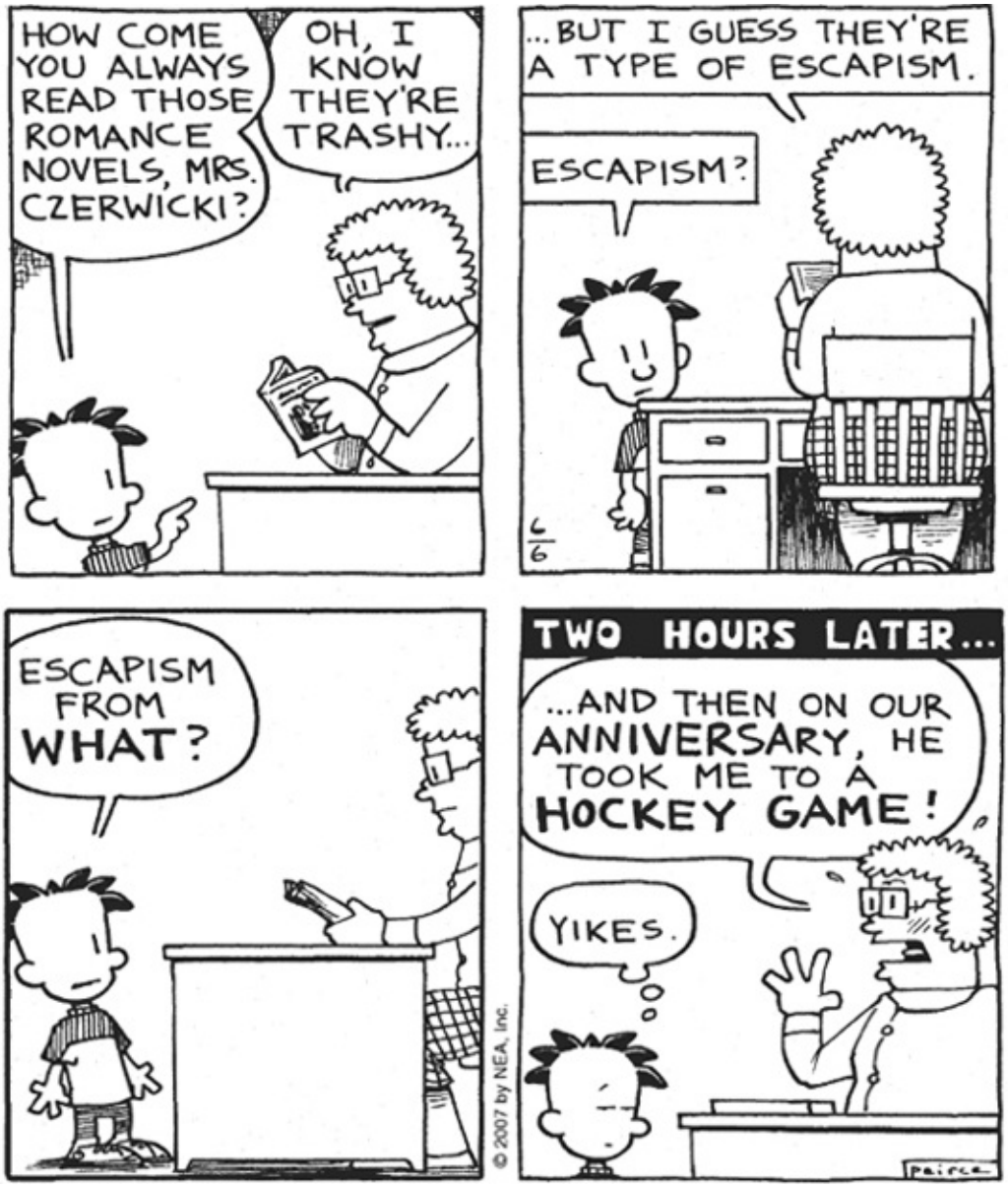

WHATCHA READING THERE, MRS. CZERWICKI?
ER... WELL...
"PYRAMIDS OF PASSION"! OOOH! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE BACK COVER, SHALL WE?
ZIP!
"WHILE EXCAVATING THE TOMB OF HAKHOTAN, SHAPELY SCIENTIST MAURA ALBRIGHT FINDS HERSELF ENCHANTED BY THE RUGGED EGYPTOLOGIST ADAM CASSEL, BEHIND WHOSE ICY BLUE EYES BURNS A FIRE HOTTER THAN THE DESERT SUN."
6/5
MRS. CZER-WICKI! ROWR!
I'VE... AHEM! ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN ARCHAE-OLOGY.
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.
Peirce


HOW COME YOU ALWAYS READ THOSE ROMANCE NOVELS, MRS. CZERWICKI?
OH, I KNOW THEY'RE TRASHY...
...BUT I GUESS THEY'RE A TYPE OF ESCAPISM.
ESCAPISM?
ESCAPISM FROM WHAT?
TWO HOURS LATER...
...AND THEN ON OUR ANNIVERSARY, HE TOOK ME TO A HOCKEY GAME!
YIKES.
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FIRST TIME, KID?
YES. ARE THEY GOING TO CALL MY PARENTS?
YUP. THEY ALWAYS CALL YOUR PARENTS WHEN YOU GET DETENTION.
OHHH... THEY'RE GOING TO BE SO MAD.
KID, RELAX. MY DAD WAS UPSET THE FIRST COUPLE TIMES, BUT AFTER A FEW DOZEN, HE GOT USED TO IT.
6/7
A FEW DOZEN?
WHEN I HIT TRIPLE DIGITS, HE JUST BECAME NUMB.
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Peirce

THIS IS BORING.
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT.
6/8
DETENTION IS MEANT TO BREAK OUR SPIRIT! BY KEEPING US TRAPPED IN HERE, THEY'RE TRYING TO BORE US INTO BECOMING OBEDIENT! IT'S WRONG!
WE'VE GOT TO RESIST THEM BY CONTINUING THE BEHAVIOR THAT LANDED US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.
SO... THE WAY TO FIGHT AGAINST DETENTION IS TO KEEP GETTING DETENTION?
YOU'RE CATCHING ON, KID. SAME TIME TOMORROW.
Peirce

YOU MAY BE HAPPY GETTING DETENTION EVERY DAY, BUT NOT ME!
ONCE IS ENOUGH! I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON! I'M NEVER GOING TO GET DE-TENTION AGAIN!
6/9
I'M GOING TO TURN MY LIFE AROUND! I'M GOING TO BE THE TYPE OF STUDENT THIS SCHOOL CAN BE PROUD OF!
WHAT A LOSER.
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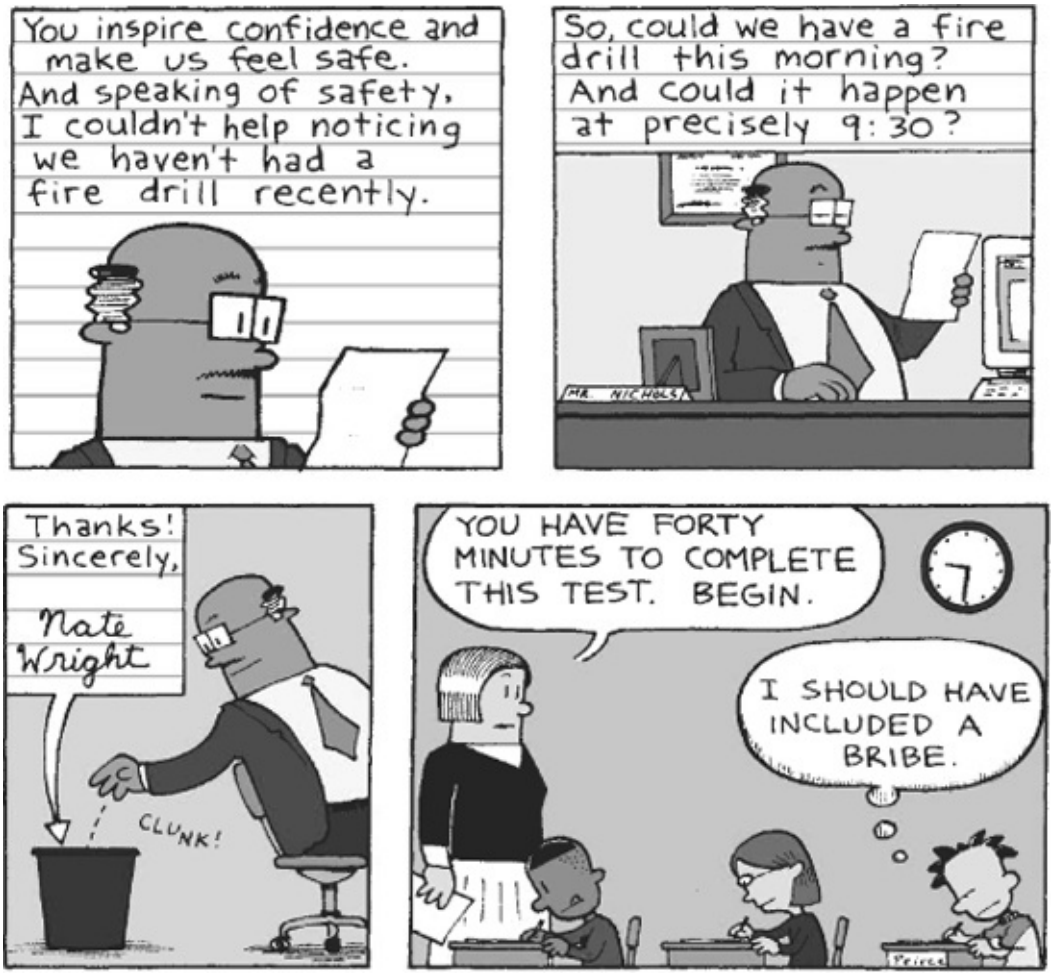
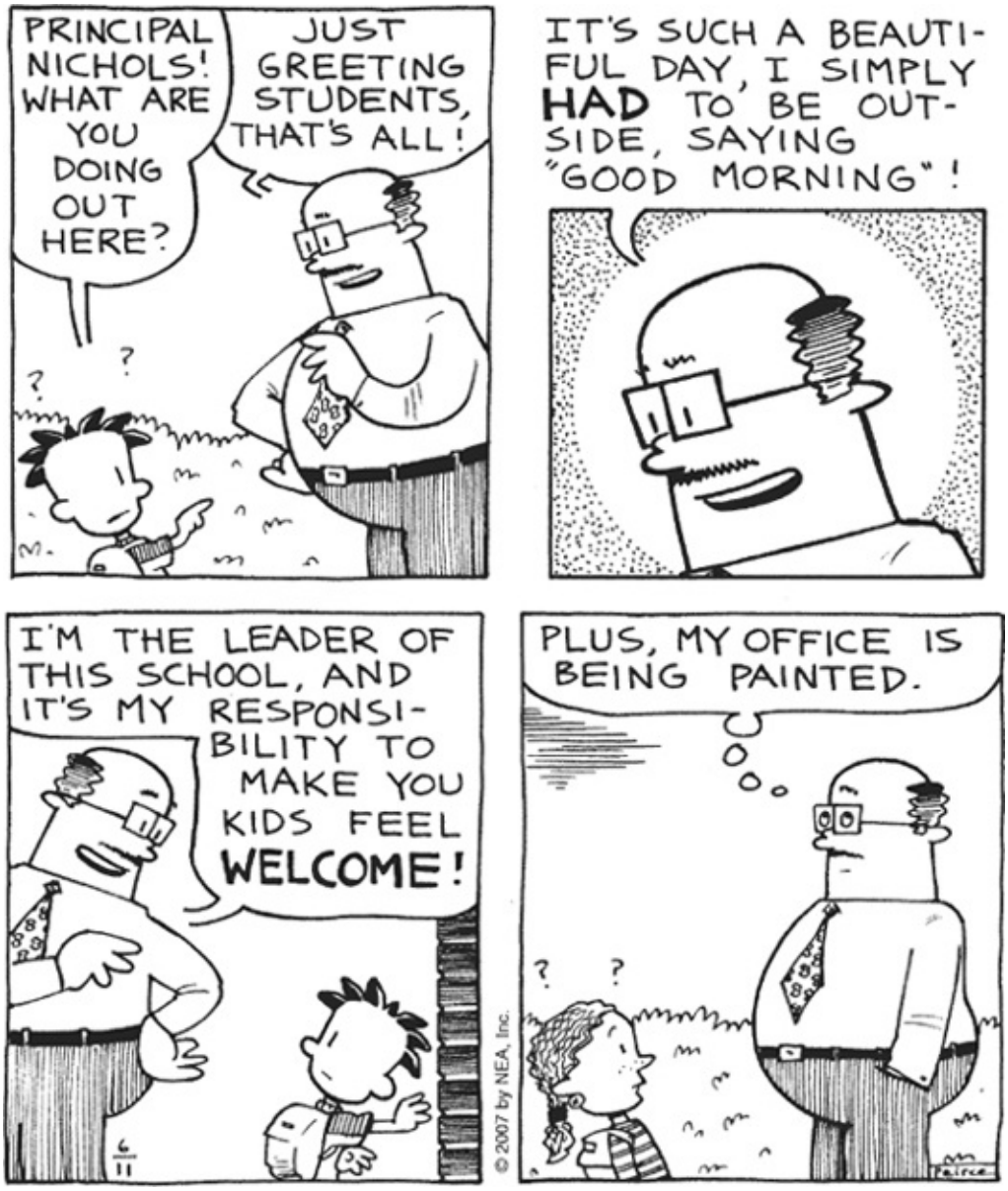
Peirce

SIR? I HAVE A NOTE FOR YOU FROM NATE WRIGHT.
FROM NATE WRIGHT?
ITALY
MR. NICHOLS
HE DROPPED IT OFF ON HIS WAY TO CLASS.
ALL RIGHT THEN. THANK YOU, MRS. SHIPULSKI.
RIP
Dear Principal Nichols,
Hi there, big guy. I hope your morning is going OK so far.
I just want to take a moment to let you know what a great principal you are. You do an awe-some job as the leader of our school.

→


You inspire confidence and make us feel safe.
And speaking of safety, I couldn't help noticing we haven't had a fire drill recently.
So, could we have a fire drill this morning? And could it happen at precisely 9:30?
MR. NICHOLS
Thanks! Sincerely,
Nate Wright
CLUNK!
YOU HAVE FORTY MINUTES TO COMPLETE THIS TEST. BEGIN.
I SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED A BRIBE.
Peirce

big NATE


PRINCIPAL NICHOLS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
JUST GREETING STUDENTS, THAT'S ALL!
IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY, I SIMPLY HAD TO BE OUTSIDE, SAYING "GOOD MORNING"!
I'M THE LEADER OF THIS SCHOOL, AND IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE YOU KIDS FEEL WELCOME!
PLUS, MY OFFICE IS BEING PAINTED.
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RRRRINNNGG!
GOOD GRAVY! THAT'S THE FIRST PERIOD BELL, AND I'VE GOT NOTHING PREPARED!
6/12
MR. ROSA! SINCE THE WEATHER'S SO NICE, CAN WE HAVE CLASS OUTSIDE?
OUTSI...?... YES!... YES!! OUTSIDE!! LANDSCAPE DRAWING, EVERYBODY! GRAB YOUR SKETCHBOOKS!
YAAAAAAYY
AH, LESSON PLAN-NING.
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PEIRCE

MRS. GODFREY, SINCE THE WEATHER IS SO NICE, CAN WE HAVE CLASS OUTSIDE? PLEEEZ?
NO.
BUT MR. ROSA LET US HAVE ART OUTSIDE, AND IT WAS AWESOME!
6/13
I'M NOT MR. ROSA.
SHE'S NOT MR. ROSA.
NEWS FLASH.
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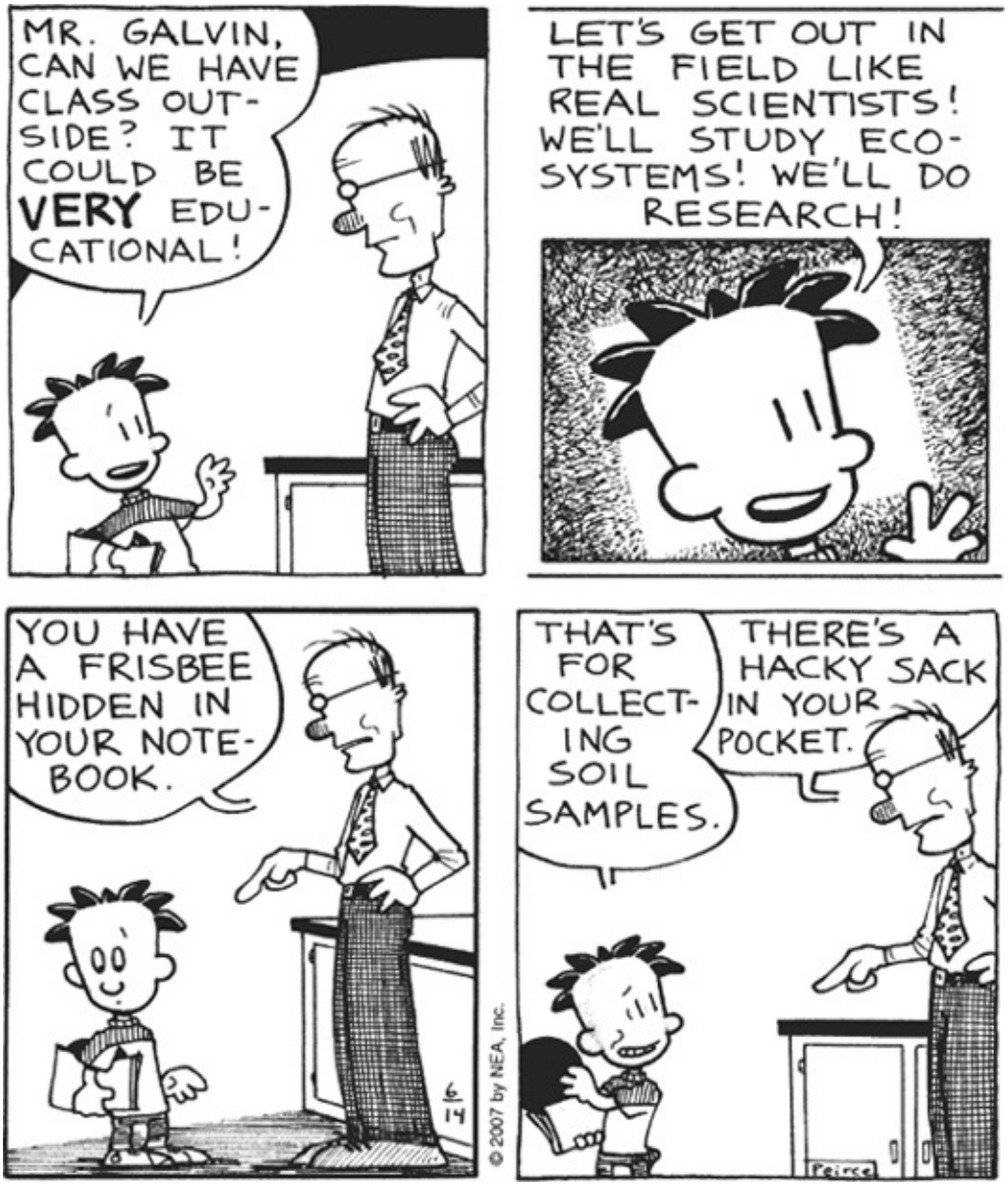

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MR. STAPLES, IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY THAT WE'VE BEEN ASKING TEACHERS TO LET US HAVE CLASS OUTSIDE.
TWO TEACHERS HAVE SAID YES, TWO HAVE SAID NO. WE HAVE A TIE, AND ONLY YOU CAN BREAK IT!
THE CLOCK IS TICKING, MR. STAPLES.
IT'S HERO TIME.
6/16
SCORE!
I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE MAN PLAYED DIVISION 3 BASKETBALL!
Peirce
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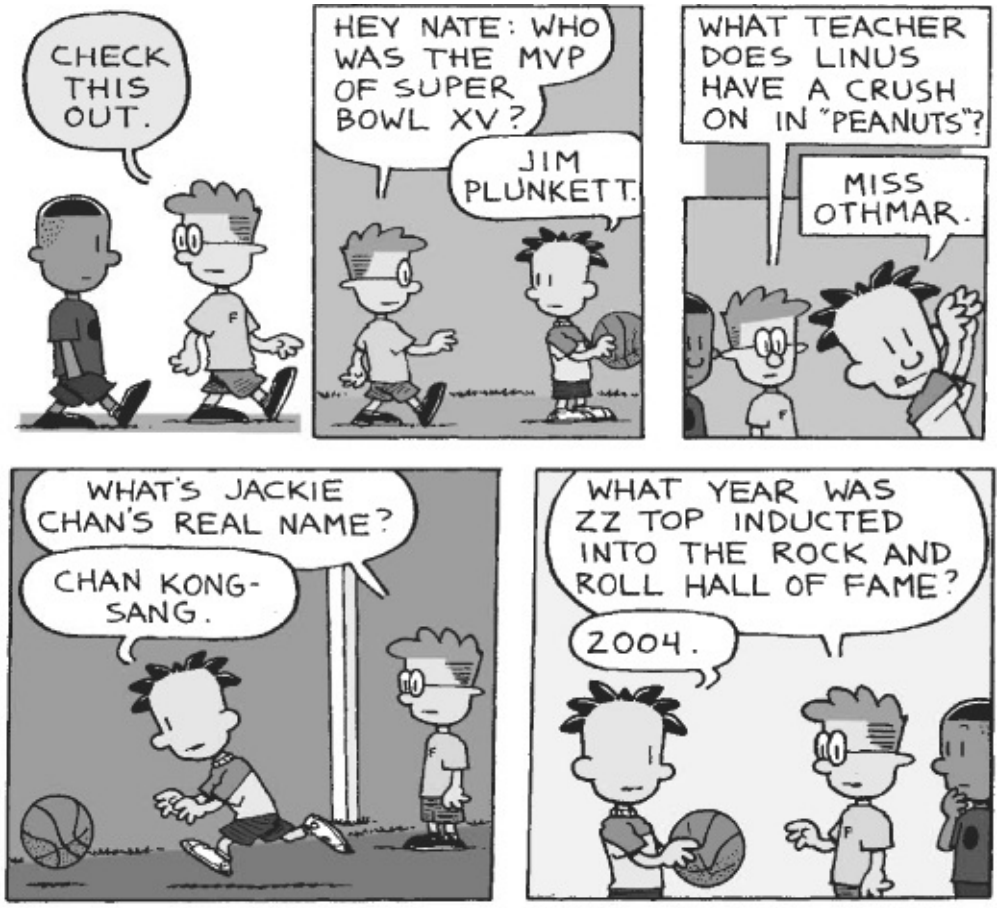
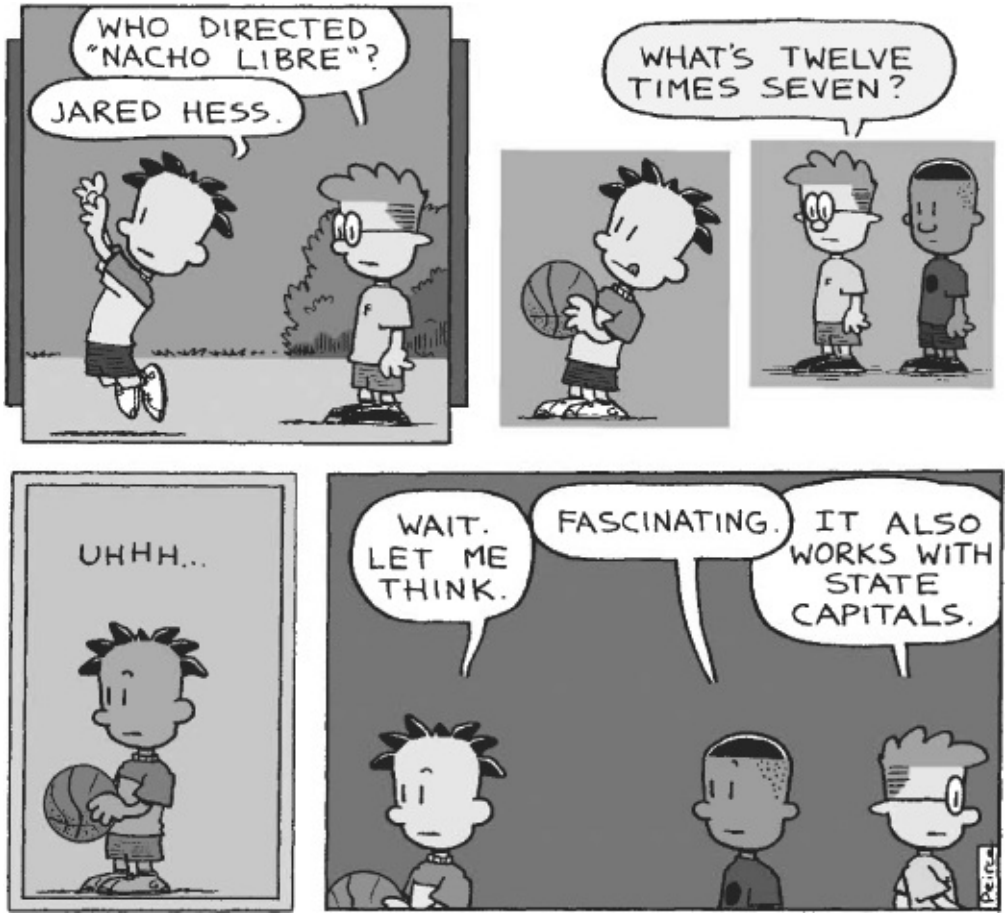

CHECK THIS OUT.
HEY NATE: WHO WAS THE MVP OF SUPER BOWL XV?
JIM PLUNKETT.
WHAT TEACHER DOES LINUS HAVE A CRUSH ON IN "PEANUTS"?
MISS OTHMAR.
WHAT'S JACKIE CHAN'S REAL NAME?
CHAN KONG-SANG.
WHAT YEAR WAS ZZ TOP INDUCTED INTO THE ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME?
2004.

→


WHO DIRECTED "NACHO LIBRE"?
JARED HESS.
WHAT'S TWELVE TIMES SEVEN?
UHHH...
WAIT. LET ME THINK.
FASCINATING.
IT ALSO WORKS WITH STATE CAPITALS.
Peirce

big NATE

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IT'S PRANK DAY, NATE! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
YEAH, NATE! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
LADS, SOMETIMES IT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO...
6/19
GUYS! COME SEE! SOMEBODY FILLED THE FACULTY PARKING LOT WITH CHOCOLATE PUDDING!
... IT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE.
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ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, SETTLE DOWN! THERE WILL BE NO "PRANK DAY" SHENANIGANS IN THIS ROOM!
6/20
WE STILL HAVE ONE FINAL CLASS TO GET THROUGH, AND...
DELIVERY.
WHAT?
THE "THIGHMASTER" YOU ORDERED, MA'AM.
HA HA HA HA
CRIPES.
HI, KIDS.
HA HA
HA HA
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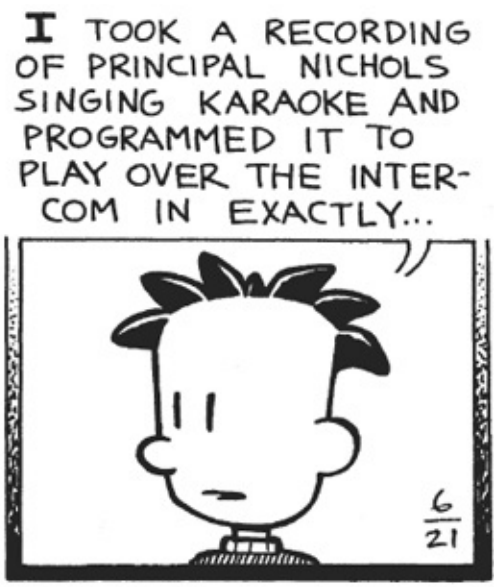
Peirce



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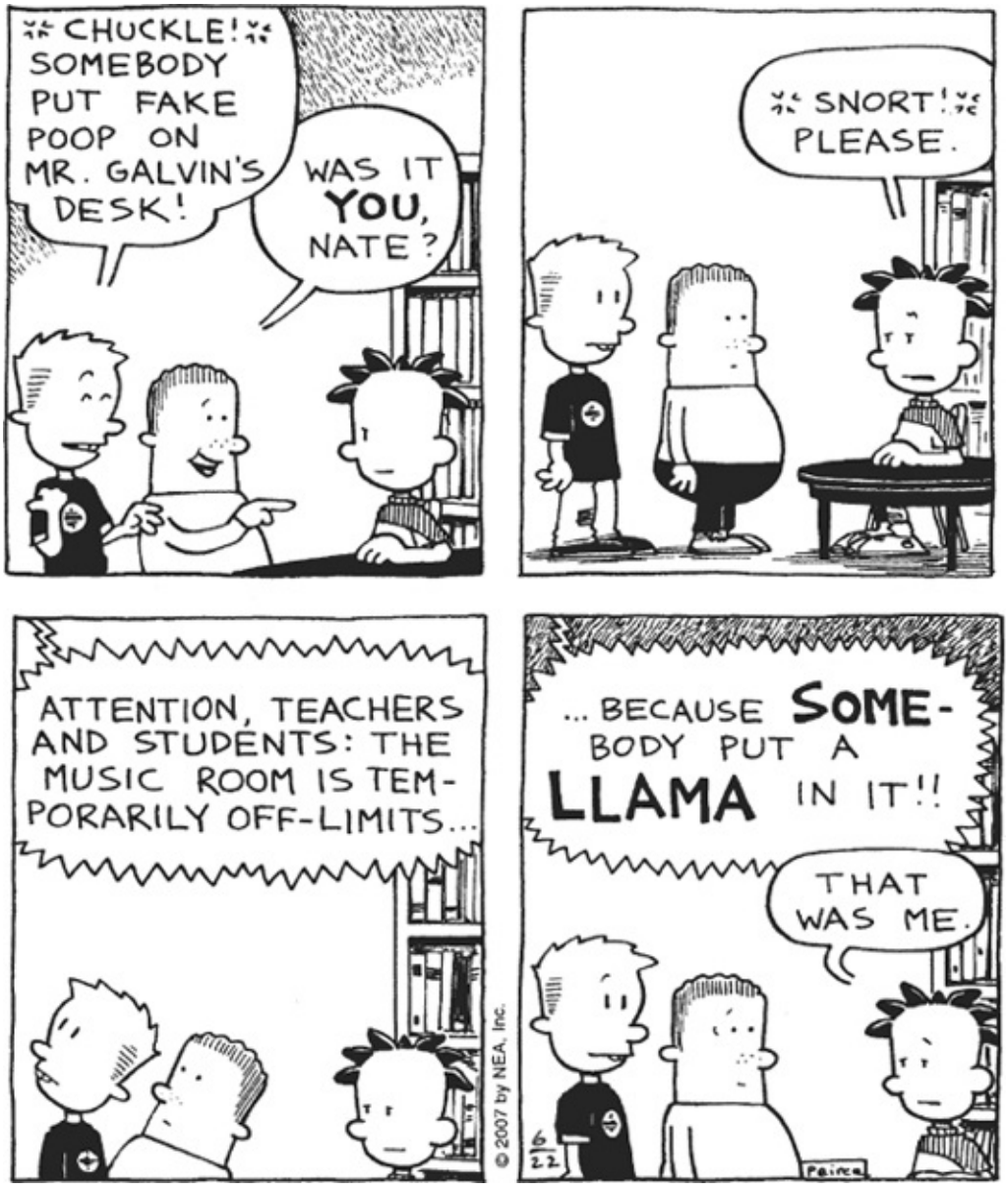
CHUCKLE! SOMEBODY PUT FAKE POOP ON MR. GALVIN'S DESK!
WAS IT YOU, NATE?
SNORT! PLEASE.
ATTENTION, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS: THE MUSIC ROOM IS TEMPORARILY OFF-LIMITS...
... BECAUSE SOMEBODY PUT A LLAMA IN IT!!
THAT WAS ME.
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6/22
Paine

SUMMER VACATION STARTS IN TWENTY SECONDS!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO FIRST?
I'M GOING ON A DIET!
A DIET?
YUP! I'M ABOUT TO LOSE... OH, I'D SAY AROUND FIFTEEN POUNDS!
WUMP!
KEEP OUR SCHOO CLEA
RRRRIINNGG!!
6/23
PEIRCE
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AHH, SUMMER!
NO SCHOOL TO THINK ABOUT! NO TEACHERS TO BOSS US AROUND! WE'RE FREE!
WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE WANT! THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS! IT'S A BIG WORLD OUT THERE!
! MR. GALVIN!
YOU'RE JAYWALKING, BOYS. USE THE CROSS-WALK.

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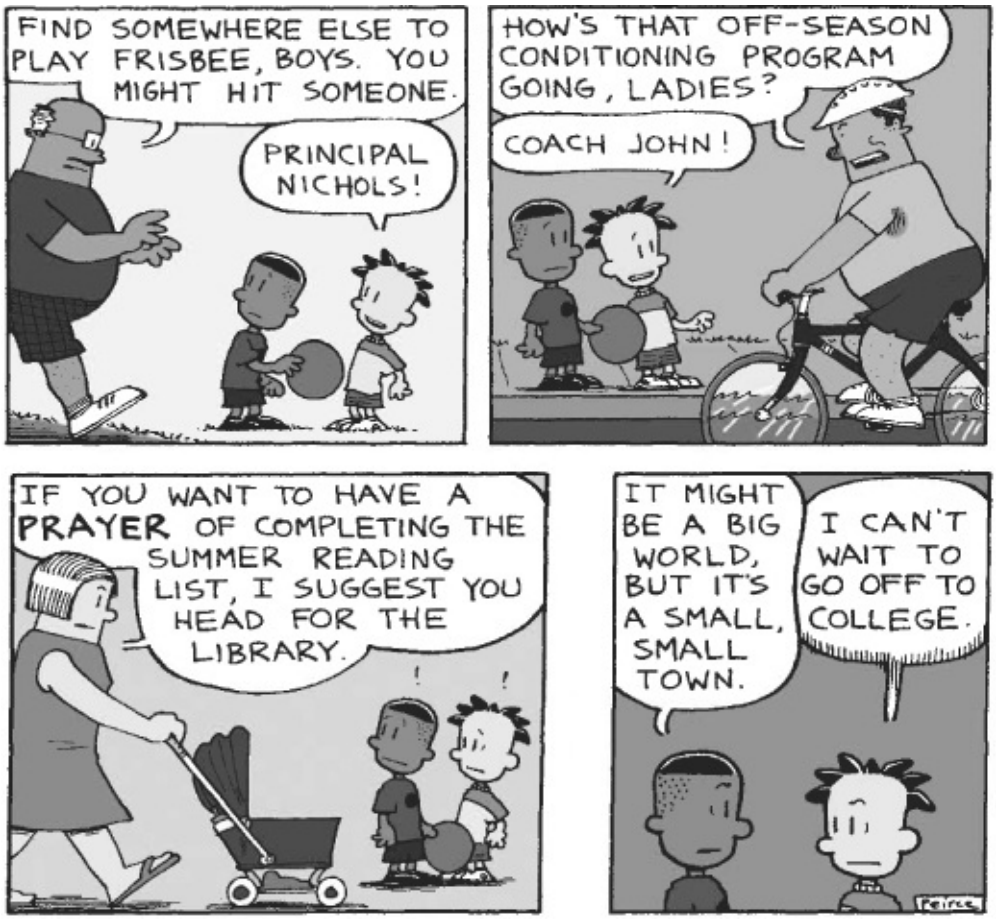
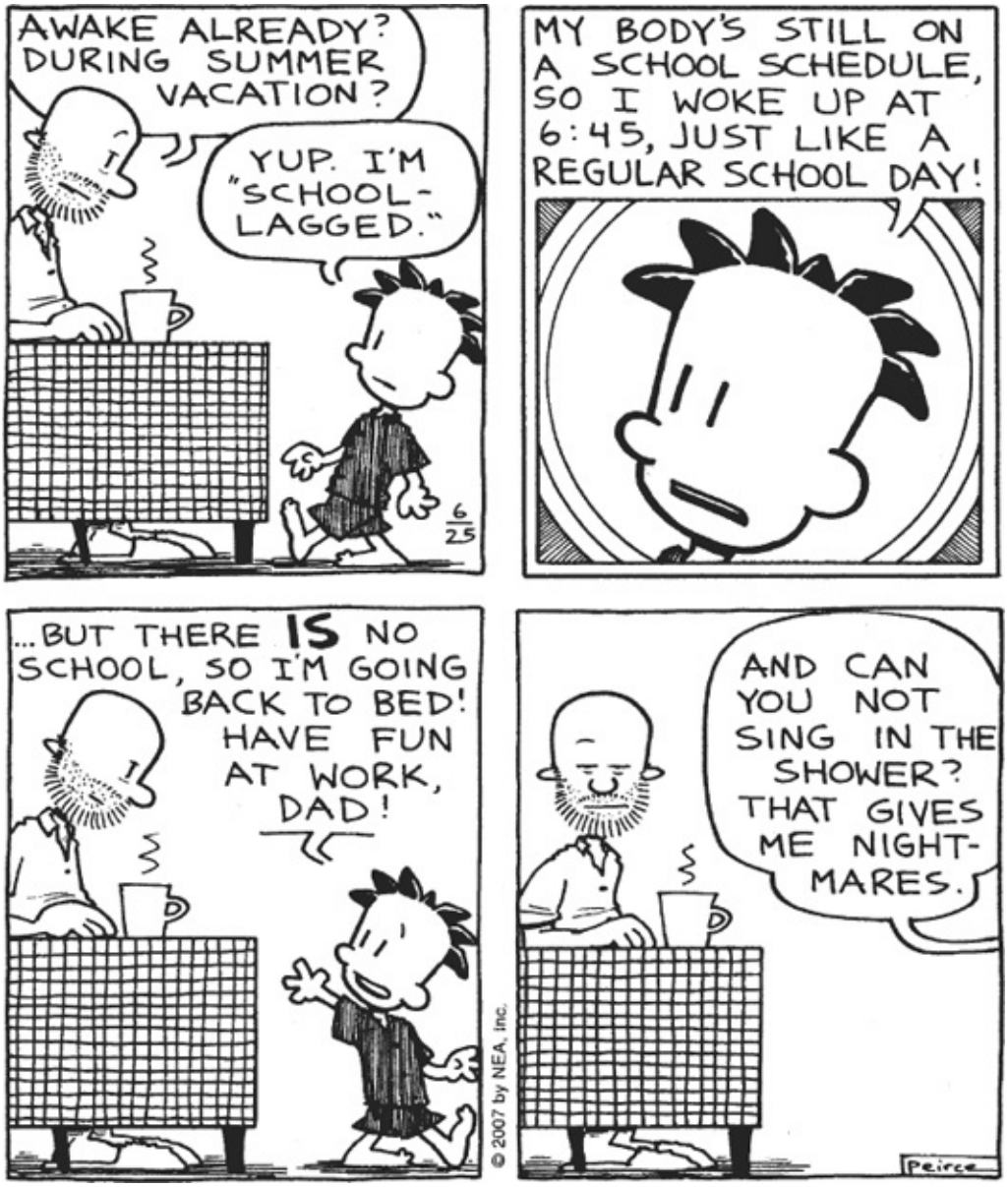

FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO PLAY FRISBEE, BOYS. YOU MIGHT HIT SOMEONE.
PRINCIPAL NICHOLS!
HOW'S THAT OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING PROGRAM GOING, LADIES?
COACH JOHN!
IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A PRAYER OF COMPLETING THE SUMMER READING LIST, I SUGGEST YOU HEAD FOR THE LIBRARY.
IT MIGHT BE A BIG WORLD, BUT IT'S A SMALL, SMALL TOWN.
I CAN'T WAIT TO GO OFF TO COLLEGE.
Reiss

big NATE


AWAKE ALREADY? DURING SUMMER VACATION?
YUP. I'M "SCHOOL-LAGGED."
6/25
MY BODY'S STILL ON A SCHOOL SCHEDULE, SO I WOKE UP AT 6:45, JUST LIKE A REGULAR SCHOOL DAY!
...BUT THERE IS NO SCHOOL, SO I'M GOING BACK TO BED! HAVE FUN AT WORK, DAD!
AND CAN YOU NOT SING IN THE SHOWER? THAT GIVES ME NIGHT-MARES.
Peirce
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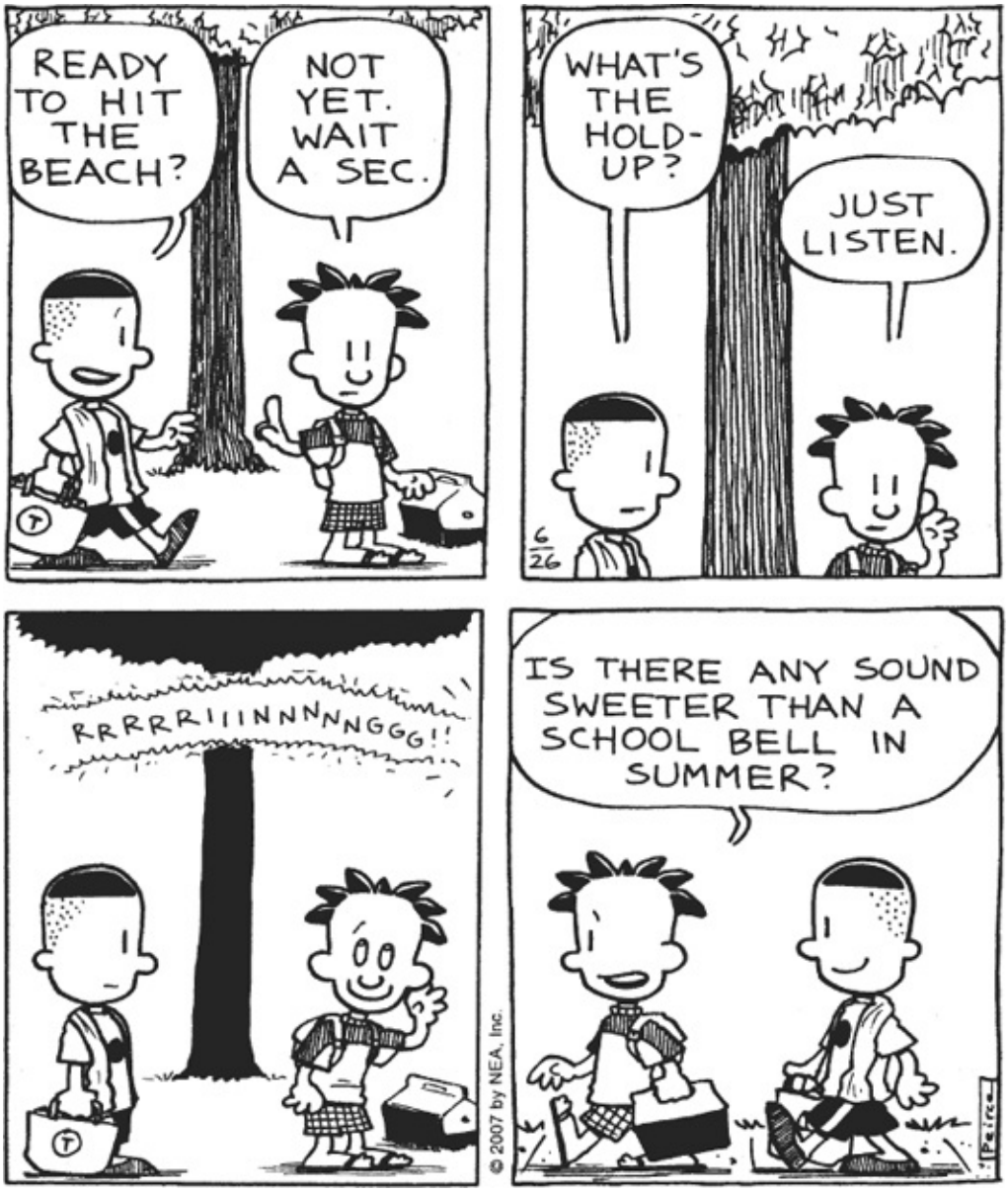
READY TO HIT THE BEACH?
NOT YET. WAIT A SEC.
WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?
JUST LISTEN.
6/26
RRRRIIINNNNNGGG!!
IS THERE ANY SOUND SWEETER THAN A SCHOOL BELL IN SUMMER?
Peirce
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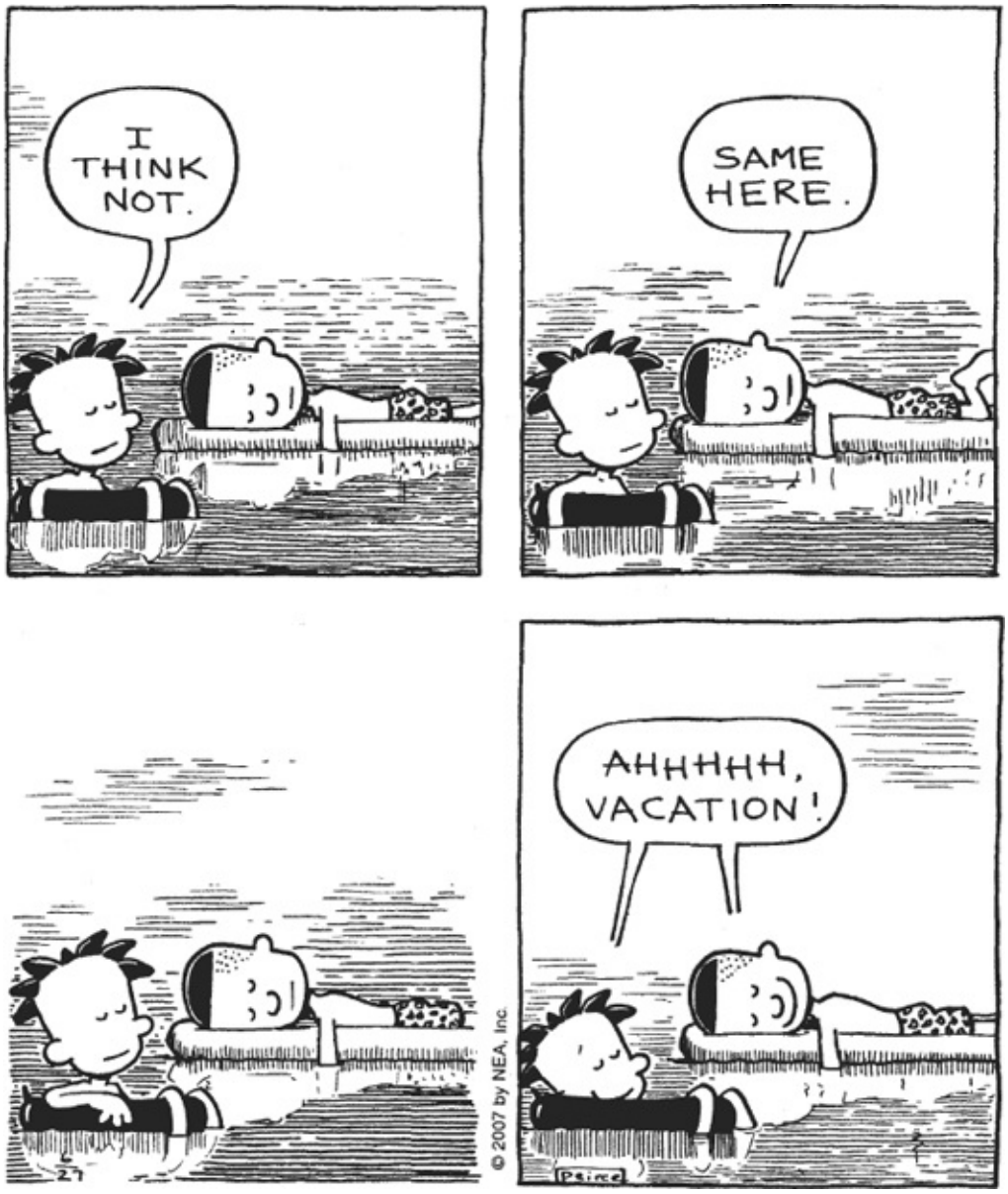
I THINK NOT.
SAME HERE.
AHHHHH, VACATION!
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WHAT TIME IS IT?
11:28
6/28
OOP! WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON! WE'VE GOT MATH IN TWO MINUTES!
WA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
A HA HA
MAYBE THAT'LL GET OLD BY AUGUST, BUT FOR NOW IT'S HILARIOUS!
SUMMER MAKES US GIDDY!
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IT'S 12:30! IF WE WERE IN SCHOOL RIGHT NOW, WE'D BE SITTING IN MRS. GODFREY'S CLASS LISTENING TO HER YAMMERING ABOUT... ABOUT...
...HEY, WHAT'S THE NAME OF THAT GUY SHE TOLD US ABOUT LAST WEEK?
WHO CARES? WHY EVEN THINK ABOUT IT?
6/29
YEAH, BUT NOW THAT I CAN'T THINK OF IT, IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY.
QUIT THINKING ABOUT IT! IT'S SUMMER! DON'T RUIN IT!
MA'AM? WHO WAS THE GUY WHO RAN FOR PRESIDENT AGAINST ABE LINCOLN AND THEN ENDED UP AS THE SECRETARY OF....
YOU'RE RUIN-ING IT!!
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FRANCIS?... DUDE, HOW COME YOU'RE NOT AT THE BEACH? IT'S AWESOME! THE WATER IS PERFECT!
WHAT?... WELL, TELL YOUR MOM YOU'LL DO IT LATER! YOU CAN'T WASTE A PRIMO BEACH DAY LIKE THIS!
6/30
YEAH, THE BODY-SURFING IS INCRED-IBLE! I'VE NEVER SEEN THE WAVES SO...
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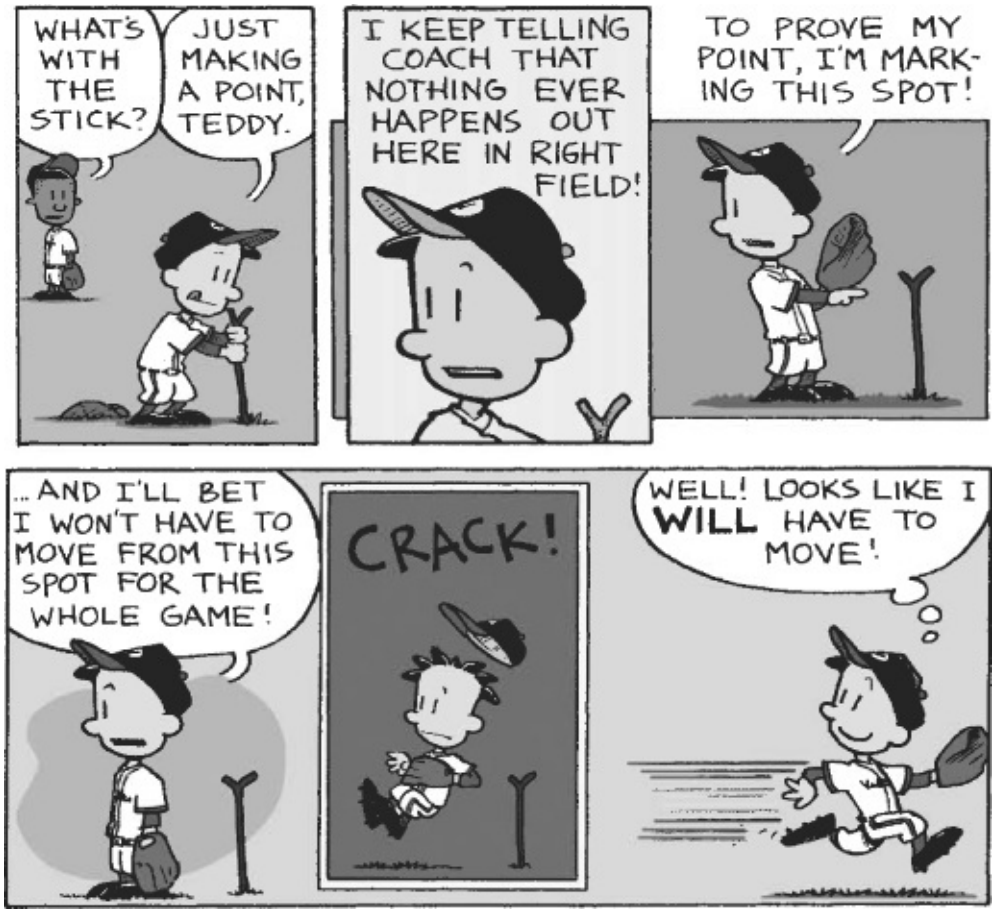
HELLO?
Peirce


WHAT'S WITH THE STICK?
JUST MAKING A POINT, TEDDY.
I KEEP TELLING COACH THAT NOTHING EVER HAPPENS OUT HERE IN RIGHT FIELD!
TO PROVE MY POINT, I'M MARKING THIS SPOT!
..AND I'LL BET I WON'T HAVE TO MOVE FROM THIS SPOT FOR THE WHOLE GAME!
CRACK!
WELL! LOOKS LIKE I WILL HAVE TO MOVE!

→

OOP! IT'S NOT CARRYING LIKE I THOUGHT IT WOULD!
ARRGH! NOW THE WIND'S TAKING IT!
THE SUN'S IN MY EYES! WHERE IS IT?
THERE IT IS!
NAB!
Pearce

big NATE

DAD! CAN I MEET FRANCIS AT THE BEACH?
WE'VE GOT OTHER PLANS, NATE. REMEMBER?
OH...RIGHT.
SORRY, DUDE. I CAN'T GO TO THE BEACH.
7/2
...ALTHOUGH I'LL BE SPENDING MOST OF THE DAY AROUND SAND AND WATER.
FORE!
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Peirce

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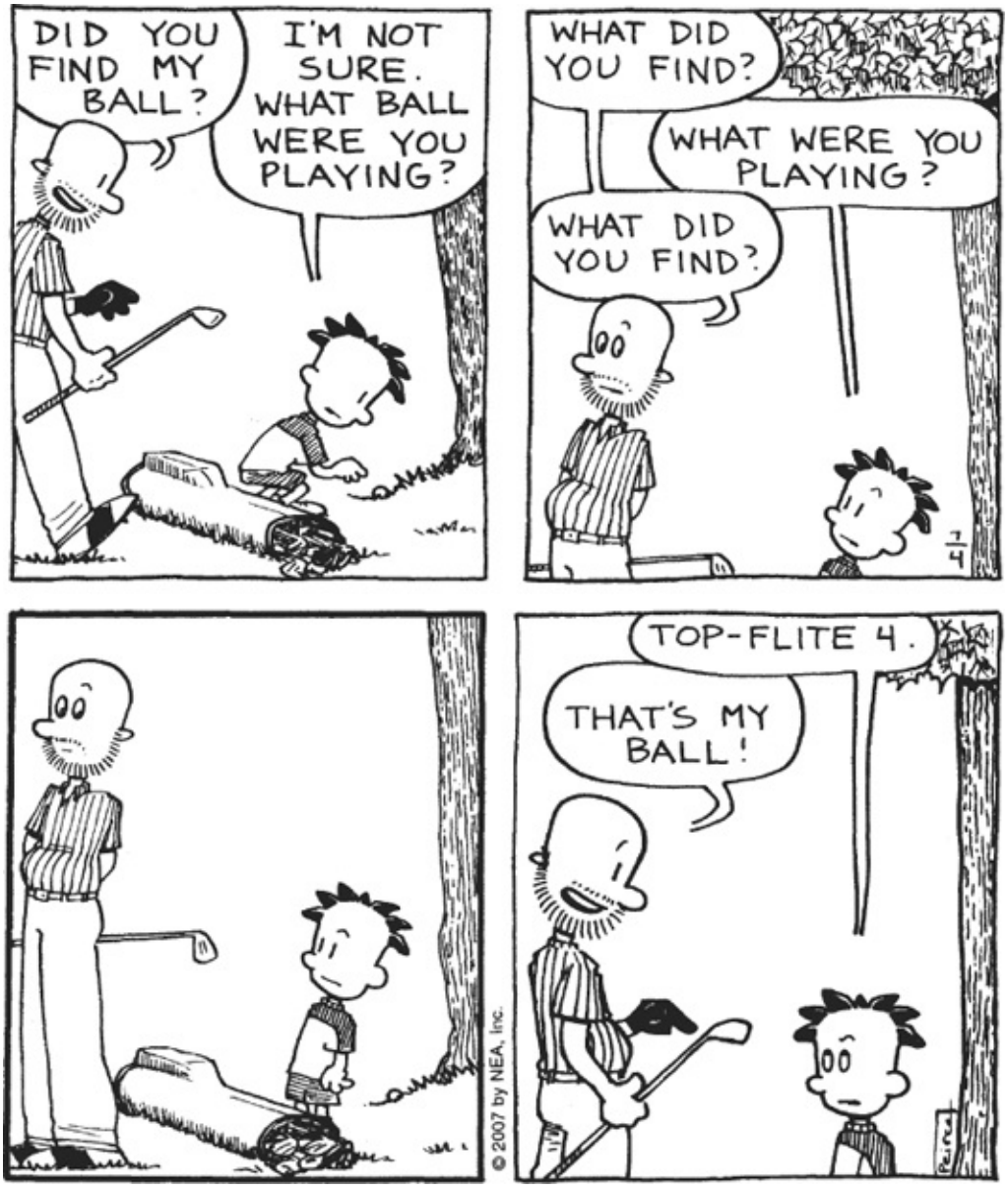
DID YOU FIND MY BALL?
I'M NOT SURE. WHAT BALL WERE YOU PLAYING?
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
WHAT WERE YOU PLAYING?
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
TOP-FLITE 4.
THAT'S MY BALL!
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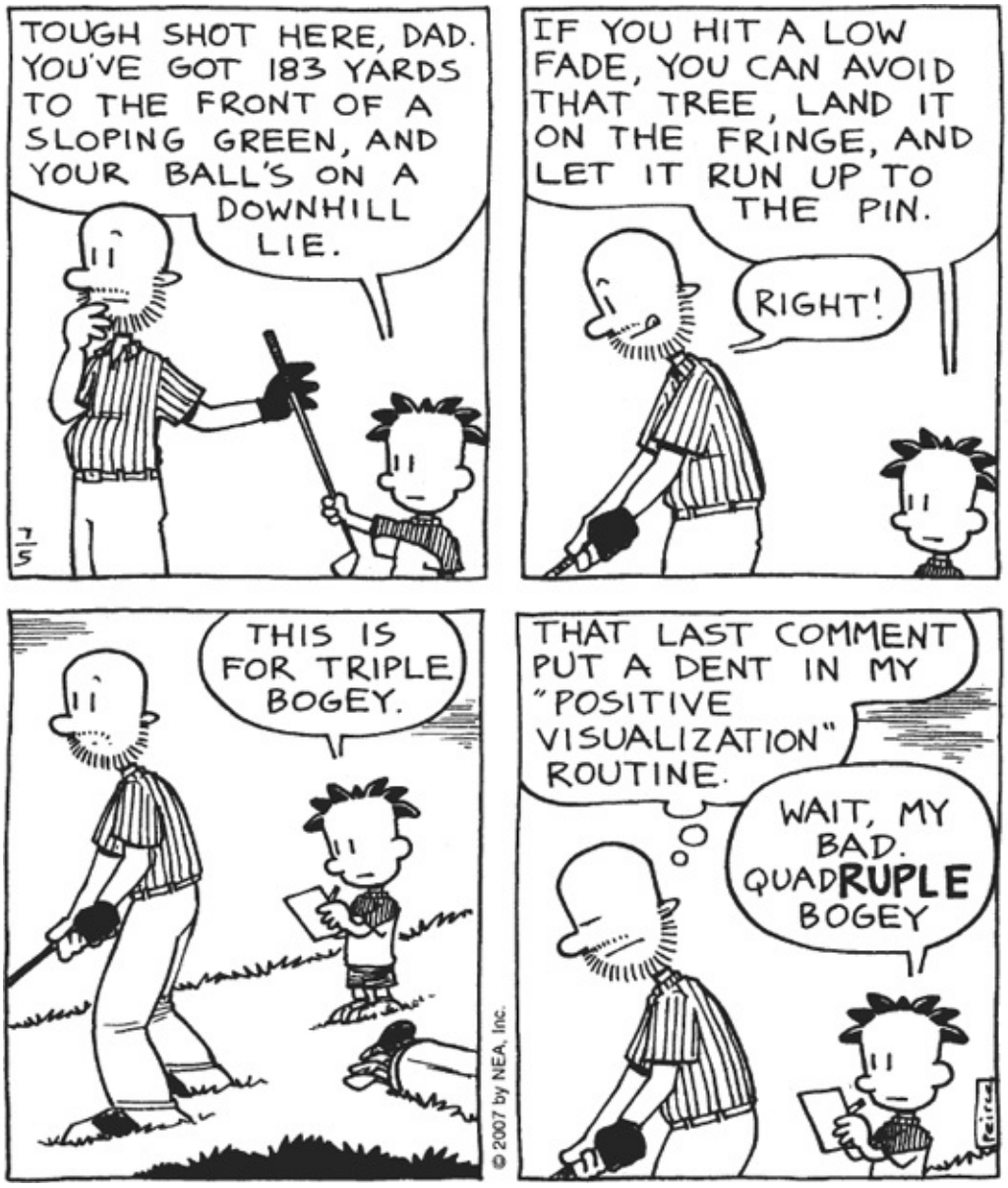
TOUGH SHOT HERE, DAD. YOU'VE GOT 183 YARDS TO THE FRONT OF A SLOPING GREEN, AND YOUR BALL'S ON A DOWNHILL LIE.
7/5
IF YOU HIT A LOW FADE, YOU CAN AVOID THAT TREE, LAND IT ON THE FRINGE, AND LET IT RUN UP TO THE PIN.
RIGHT!
THIS IS FOR TRIPLE BOGEY.
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THAT LAST COMMENT PUT A DENT IN MY "POSITIVE VISUALIZATION" ROUTINE.
WAIT, MY BAD. QUADRUPLE BOGEY
Reiss

HERE COMES THE GIRL WITH THE SNACK CART! CAN WE GET A COUPLE SODAS, DAD?
OKAY. JUST LET ME HIT THIS SHOT.
WAK!
CLONG!
7/6
GOOD THING SHE WAS WEARING THAT BIKE HELMET.
I REALLY WASN'T THIRSTY ANYWAY.
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Peirce

I LOVE GOLF, BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY PLAYED A ROUND THAT MEANS ANYTHING!
7/7
I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD FEEL LIKE TO BE A PRO! TO PLAY FOR HIGH STAKES!
I'D LOVE TO FIND OUT HOW I'D REACT UNDER PRESSURE!
YOU WANT PRESSURE?
YOU'RE DOWN TO YOUR LAST BALL, AND WE'RE ONLY ON THE TWELFTH HOLE.
YIKES.
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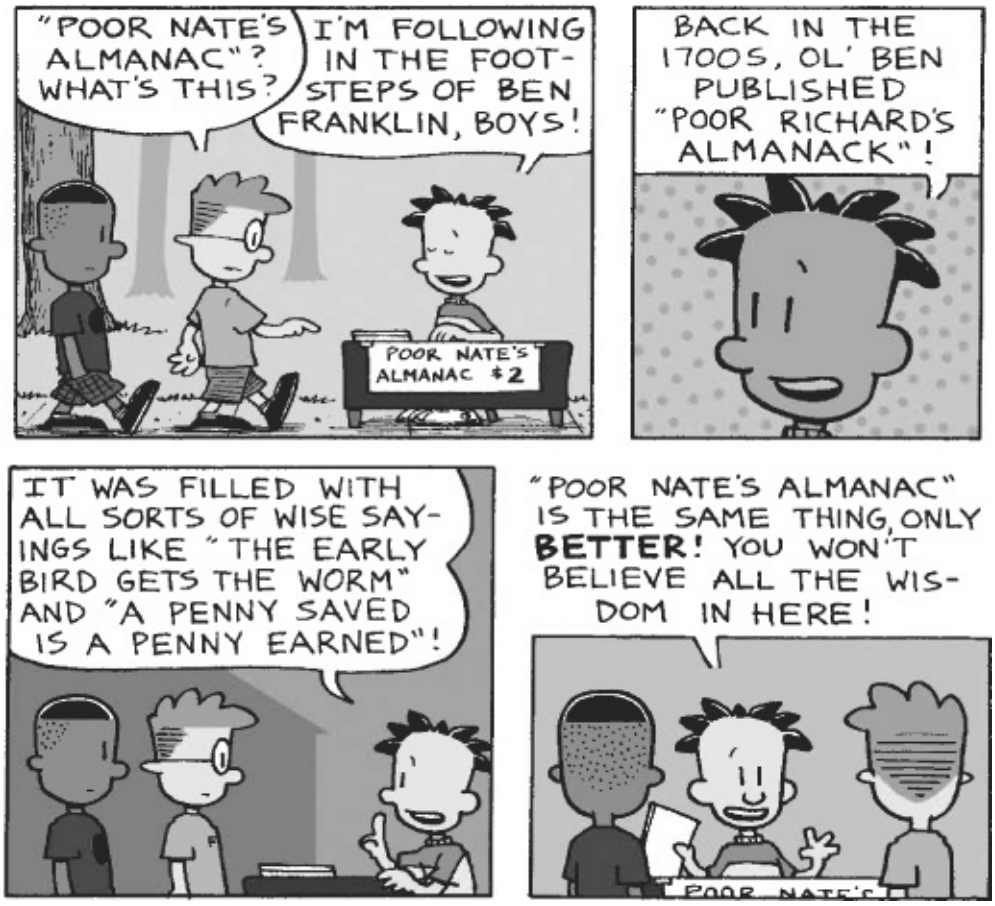
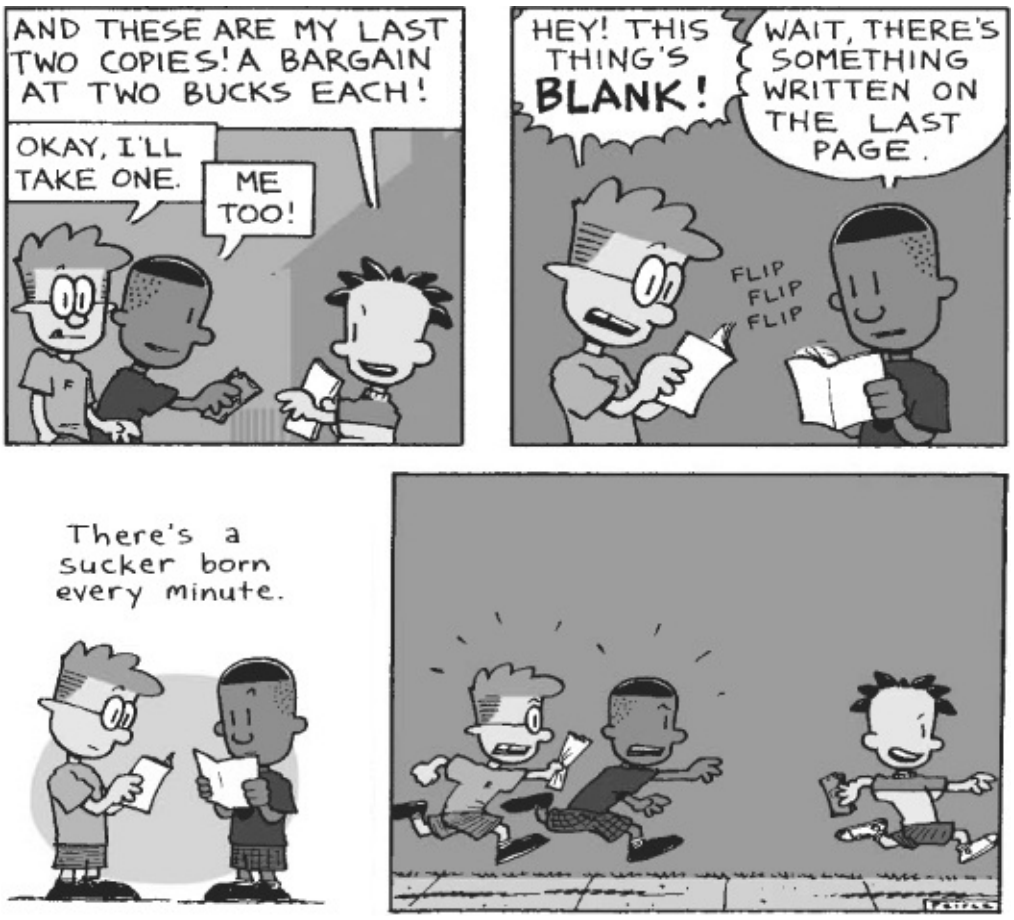
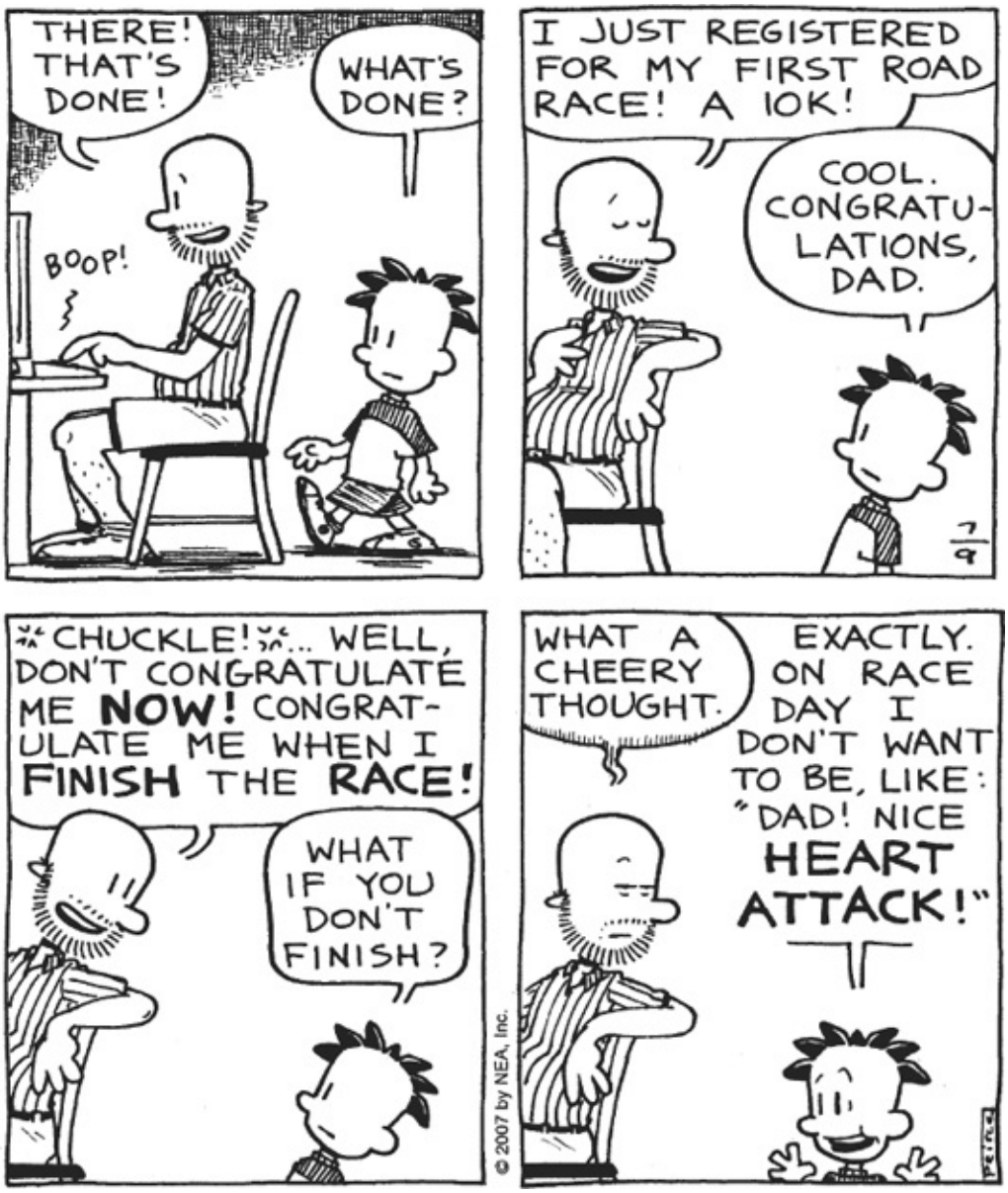

"POOR NATE'S ALMANAC"? WHAT'S THIS?
I'M FOLLOWING IN THE FOOT-STEPS OF BEN FRANKLIN, BOYS!
POOR NATE'S ALMANAC $2
BACK IN THE 1700S, OL' BEN PUBLISHED "POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK"!
IT WAS FILLED WITH ALL SORTS OF WISE SAY-INGS LIKE "THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM" AND "A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED"!
"POOR NATE'S ALMANAC" IS THE SAME THING, ONLY **BETTER!** YOU WON'T BELIEVE ALL THE WIS-DOM IN HERE!
POOR NATE'S

→


AND THESE ARE MY LAST TWO COPIES! A BARGAIN AT TWO BUCKS EACH!
OKAY, I'LL TAKE ONE.
ME TOO!
HEY! THIS THING'S BLANK!
WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING WRITTEN ON THE LAST PAGE.
FLIP FLIP FLIP
There's a sucker born every minute.

big NATE



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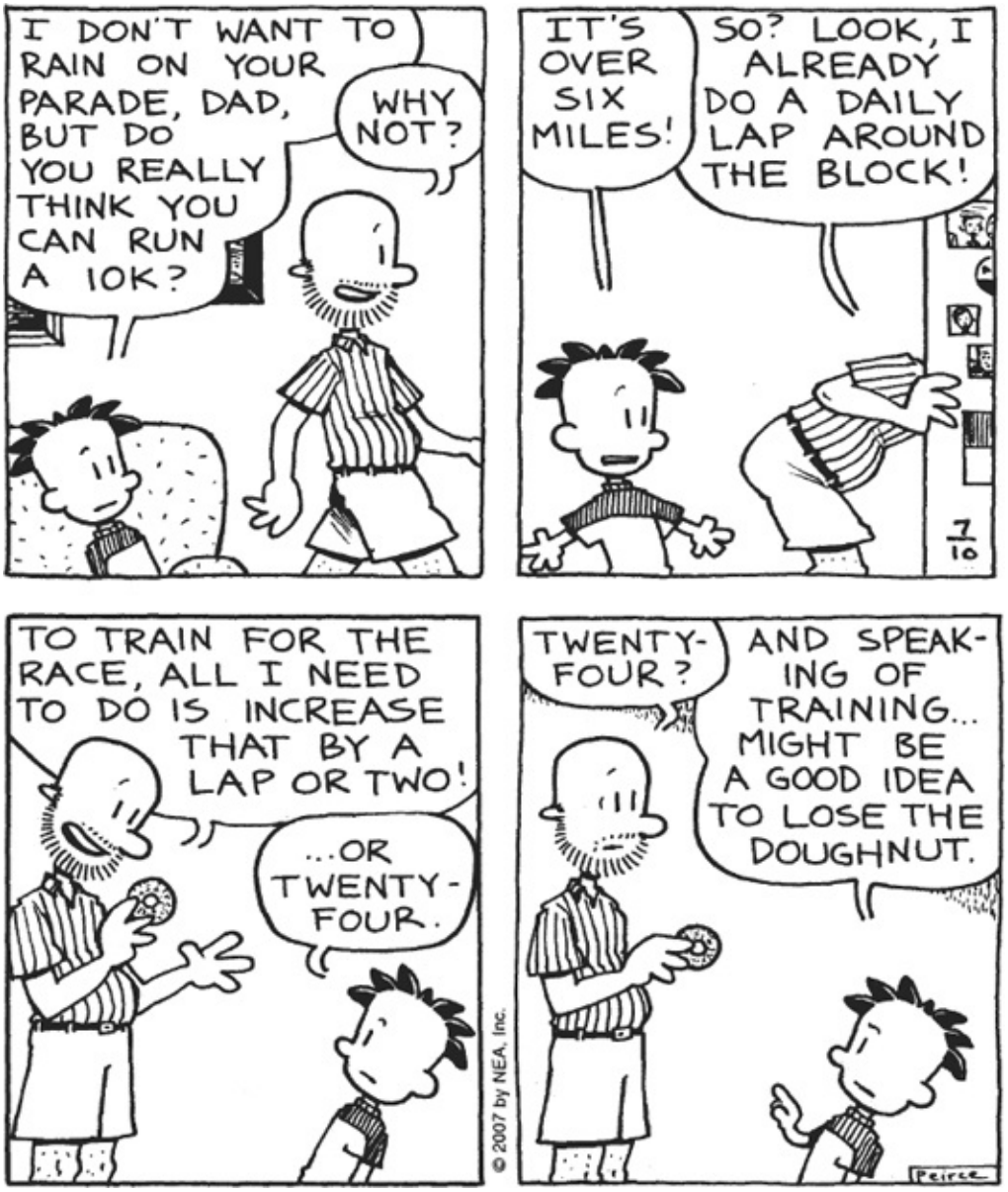
I DON'T WANT TO RAIN ON YOUR PARADE, DAD, BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN RUN A 10K?
WHY NOT?
IT'S OVER SIX MILES!
SO? LOOK, I ALREADY DO A DAILY LAP AROUND THE BLOCK!
7/10
TO TRAIN FOR THE RACE, ALL I NEED TO DO IS INCREASE THAT BY A LAP OR TWO!
...OR TWENTY-FOUR.
TWENTY-FOUR?
AND SPEAKING OF TRAINING... MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO LOSE THE DOUGHNUT.
Peirce
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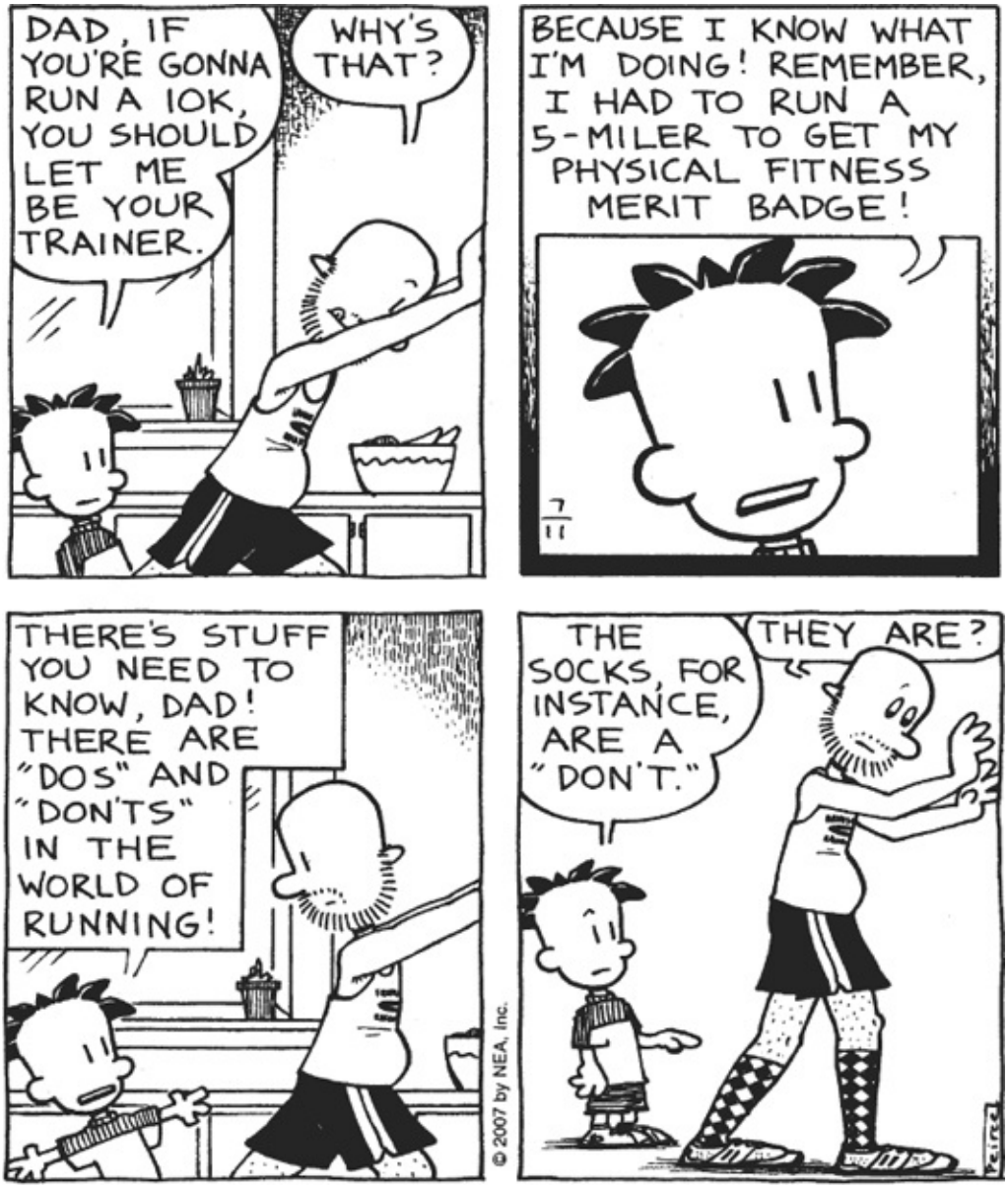
DAD, IF YOU'RE GONNA RUN A 10K, YOU SHOULD LET ME BE YOUR TRAINER.
WHY'S THAT?
BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! REMEMBER, I HAD TO RUN A 5-MILER TO GET MY PHYSICAL FITNESS MERIT BADGE!
7/11
THERE'S STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW, DAD! THERE ARE "DOS" AND "DON'TS" IN THE WORLD OF RUNNING!
THE SOCKS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE A "DON'T."
THEY ARE?
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Reine

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WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'M HELPING MY DAD TRAIN FOR A 10K, FRANCIS.
I ALREADY HAD HIM RUN SOME HILLS, AND NOW HE'S DOING A FEW LAPS AROUND THE BLOCK AT A MODERATE PACE.
7/13
IS HE SUPPOSED TO BE CHASING AFTER THAT ICE CREAM TRUCK?
DAD! NO DE-TOURS!
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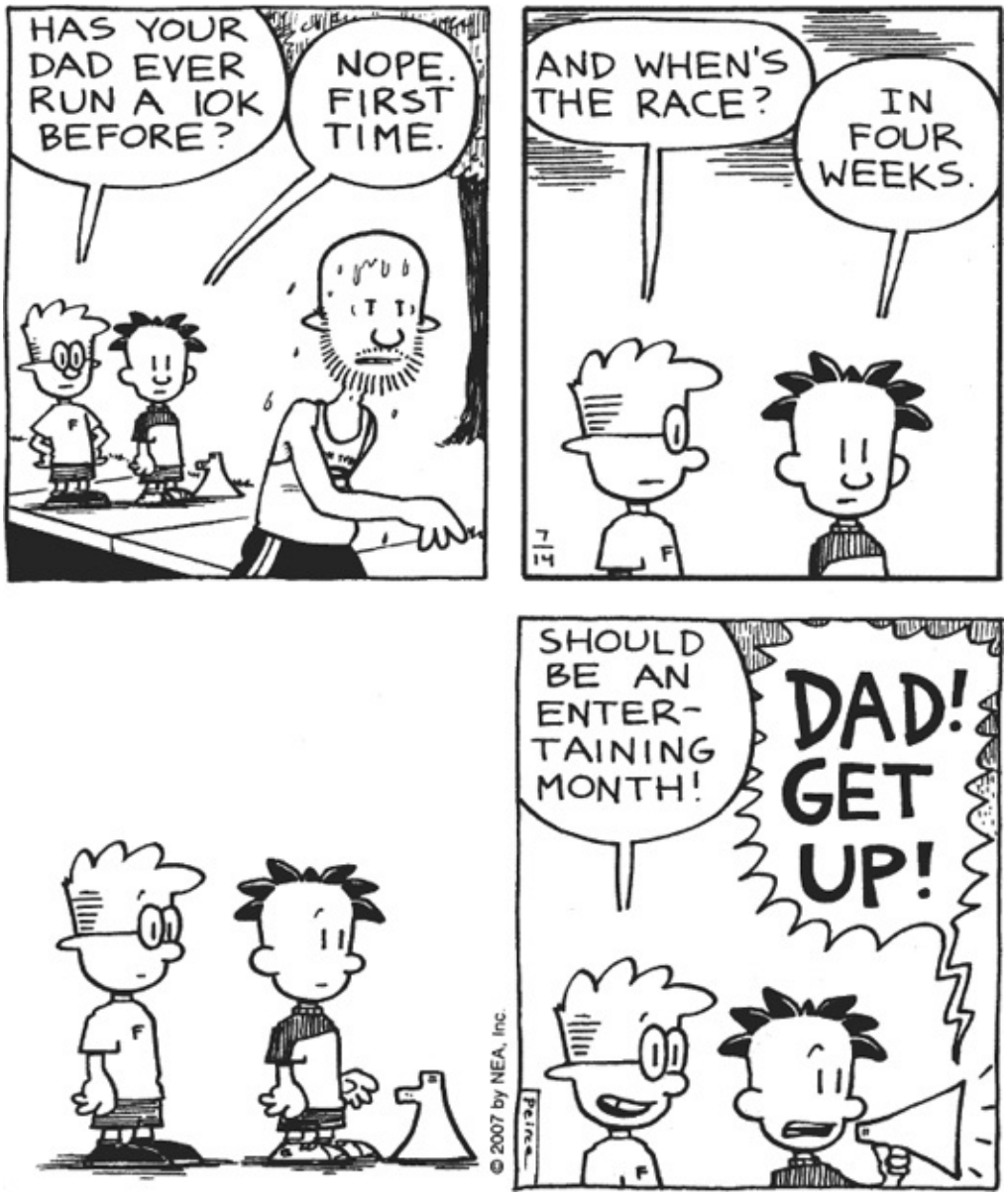
HAS YOUR DAD EVER RUN A 10K BEFORE?
NOPE. FIRST TIME.
AND WHEN'S THE RACE?
IN FOUR WEEKS.
SHOULD BE AN ENTER-TAINING MONTH!
DAD! GET UP!
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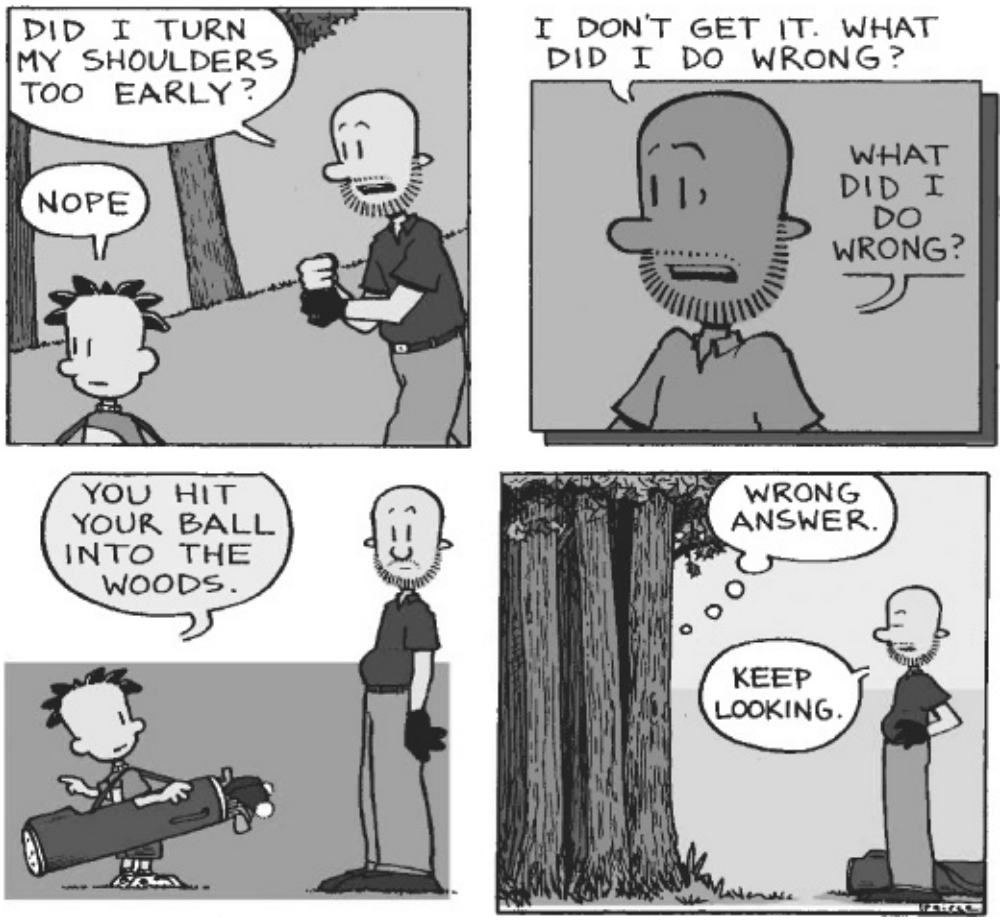
AARRGH!
4
WHAT HAPPENED? DID I JERK MY HEAD UP?
NOPE
DID I ROLL MY WRISTS?
NOPE
WAS I PAST HORIZONTAL ON MY BACKSWING?
NO
DID MY FRONT HIP FLY OPEN?
NO

→


DID I TURN MY SHOULDERS TOO EARLY?
NOPE
I DON'T GET IT. WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
YOU HIT YOUR BALL INTO THE WOODS.
WRONG ANSWER.
KEEP LOOKING.

big NATE

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CHECKING OUT THE YARD SALE LISTINGS!
THERE'S ONE ONLY FOUR BLOCKS FROM HERE THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE IDEAL PLACE TO PICK UP SOME UNDERVALUED TREASURES!
"BABY CLOTHES, LAWN FURNITURE, PICTURE FRAMES, NEARLY NEW SNOW TIRES, SHEET MUSIC, USED POWER TOOLS, AND MUCH MORE."
A VERITABLE GOLD MINE.
"AND MUCH MORE"! THAT'S, LIKE, CODE FOR "KA-CHING!"
7/17
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Peirce

OKAY, LADS, START LOOKING FOR STUFF WE CAN BUY CHEAP, THEN RESELL FOR A HUGE PROFIT!
YARD SALE
OH HO! A MAGIC EIGHT BALL!
A MAGIC EIGHT BALL? HOW IS THAT GONNA MAKE US A PROFIT?
MAGIC EIGHT BALL!... WILL FRANCIS, TEDDY AND I BUY SOMETHING AT THIS YARD SALE THAT'S WORTH WAY MORE THAN WE PAY FOR IT?
SHUCKA SHUCKA SHUCKA
1/18
"IT IS CERTAIN." YES!
I'M SO GLAD WE'RE APPROACHING THIS SCIENTIFICALLY.
Paige
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GUYS, HELP ME PEEK BEHIND THE BACK OF THIS PAINTING!
WHAT FOR?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT GUY WHO BOUGHT AN OLD PAINTING AT A YARD SALE?
LATER, WHEN HE TOOK OFF THE BACK-ING, HE FOUND A COPY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE!
7/19
DUDE, THIS IS A VELVET SILKSCREEN OF DOGS PLAYING POKER.
EXACTLY! WHERE BETTER TO HIDE VALUABLES? BEHIND A CLASSIC!
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MISTER, THIS YARD SALE ISN'T EXACTLY A TREASURE TROVE.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE I COULD TAKE TO "ANTIQUES ROADSHOW" AND FIND OUT IT'S WORTH A LOT OF MONEY! THERE'S NOTHING HERE OF VALUE!
IT'S ALMOST LIKE... YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO SELL STUFF YOU HAVE NO USE FOR ANYMORE!
NO OFFENSE.
NONE TAKEN. YOU GONNA BUY THAT?
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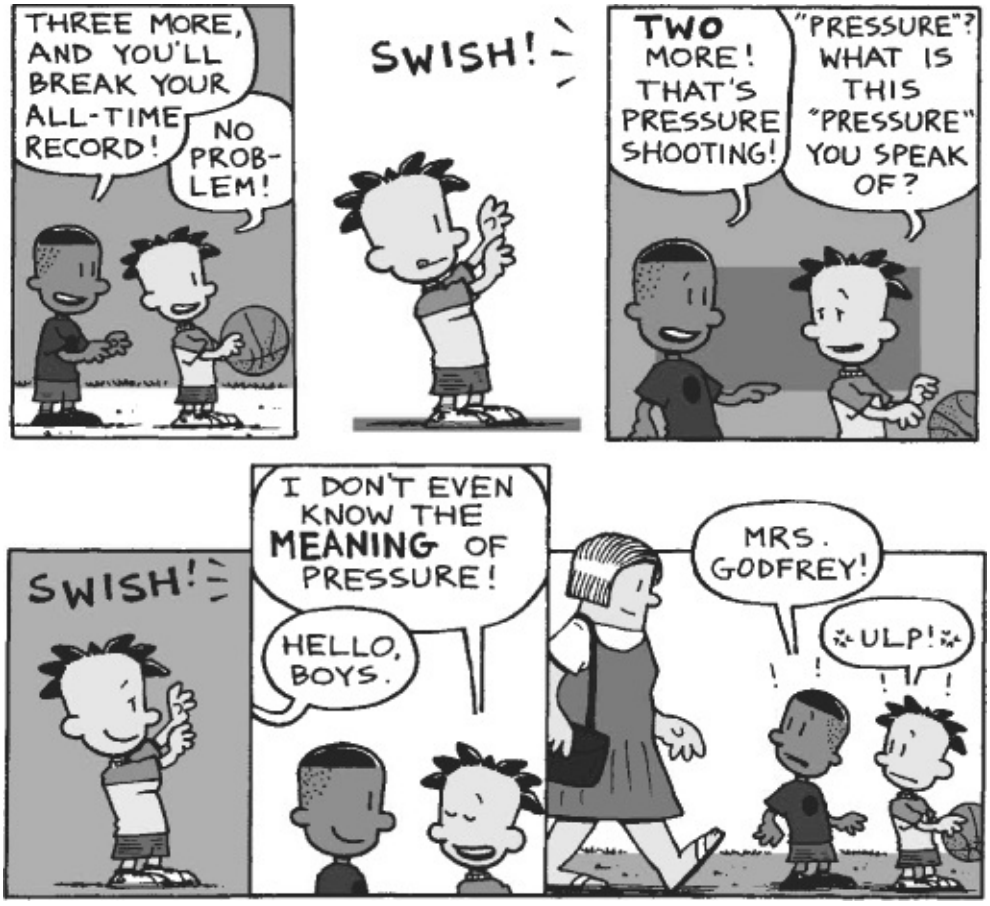
THREE MORE, AND YOU'LL BREAK YOUR ALL-TIME RECORD!
NO PROB-LEM!
SWISH!
TWO MORE! THAT'S PRESSURE SHOOTING!
"PRESSURE"? WHAT IS THIS "PRESSURE" YOU SPEAK OF?
SWISH!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE MEANING OF PRESSURE!
HELLO, BOYS.
MRS. GODFREY!
ULP!

→

I'M ON MY WAY OVER TO A READING AT THAT NEW BOOKSTORE!
HM.
UH HUH
OH, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT YOU! KEEP SHOOTING, NATE!
UH... OKAY.
CLANG!
TSK! SO CLOSE!
NOW DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING OF PRESSURE?
OH, HOW I HATE HER.

big NATE

YOU GUYS ARE IN TROUBLE TODAY! WE'VE GOT OUR ACE PITCHING!
OH, REALLY? THAT'S NICE.
YUP, HE'S ALMOST SIX FEET TALL, AND HE CAN BRING IT!
HM. YEAH, HE'S PRETTY BIG.
OUR PITCHER'S OVER THERE.
WHA...? WHA...? WHA...?
DO YOU LIKE THE FULL BEARD? SEE, I THINK HE LOOKED BETTER WITH JUST A MUSTACHE.
7/23
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CHESTER SEEMED SLUGGISH WARMING UP. HIS FASTBALL WAS SLOWER THAN USUAL.
I'LL FIX THAT.
CHESTER PITCHES BEST WHEN HE PITCHES ANGRY! SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MAKE HIM MAD!
HOW DO WE...
YO, CHESTER! FRANCIS JUST CALLED YOU "SLOW"!
WHAT?!
THERE YOU GO! PROBLEM SOLVED!
7/24
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Peirce

THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY COCKY, CHESTER! HOW ABOUT SHUTTING THEM UP BY PITCHING A NO-HITTER?
CHESTER?
I'M TRYING TO DO MY PRE-GAME ROUTINE.
I'M TRYING TO GO TO MY HAPPY PLACE. I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE BOTHERING ME WHEN I'M IN MY HAPPY PLACE.
7/25
HEAR THAT, FELLAS? BACK OFF!
GET OUT OF MY HAPPY PLACE OR I'LL RIP YOUR ARM OFF.
Peirce
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ATTABOY, CHESTER! NICE PITCHING!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU CAUGHT THAT FLY BALL.
IF YOU HADN'T CAUGHT THAT FLY BALL, YOU WOULD HAVE MADE ME MAD.
IF YOU MISS ANY FLY BALLS DURING THE REST OF THE GAME, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME MAD.
7/26
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'M PRAYING FOR A RAIN OUT.
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NICE HIT.
HM? OH... THANKS.
DUST DUST
I'M SURPRISED YOU HIT IT TO THE OPPO-SITE FIELD. OUR SCOUTING REPORT SAID YOU'RE A DEAD PULL HITTER.
SCOUTING REPORT?
YOU GUYS HAVE A SCOUTING REPORT ON ME?
YUP.
7/27
HEY COACH! I'VE BEEN SCOUTED!
GOOD, NATE. STAY ON THE BASE.
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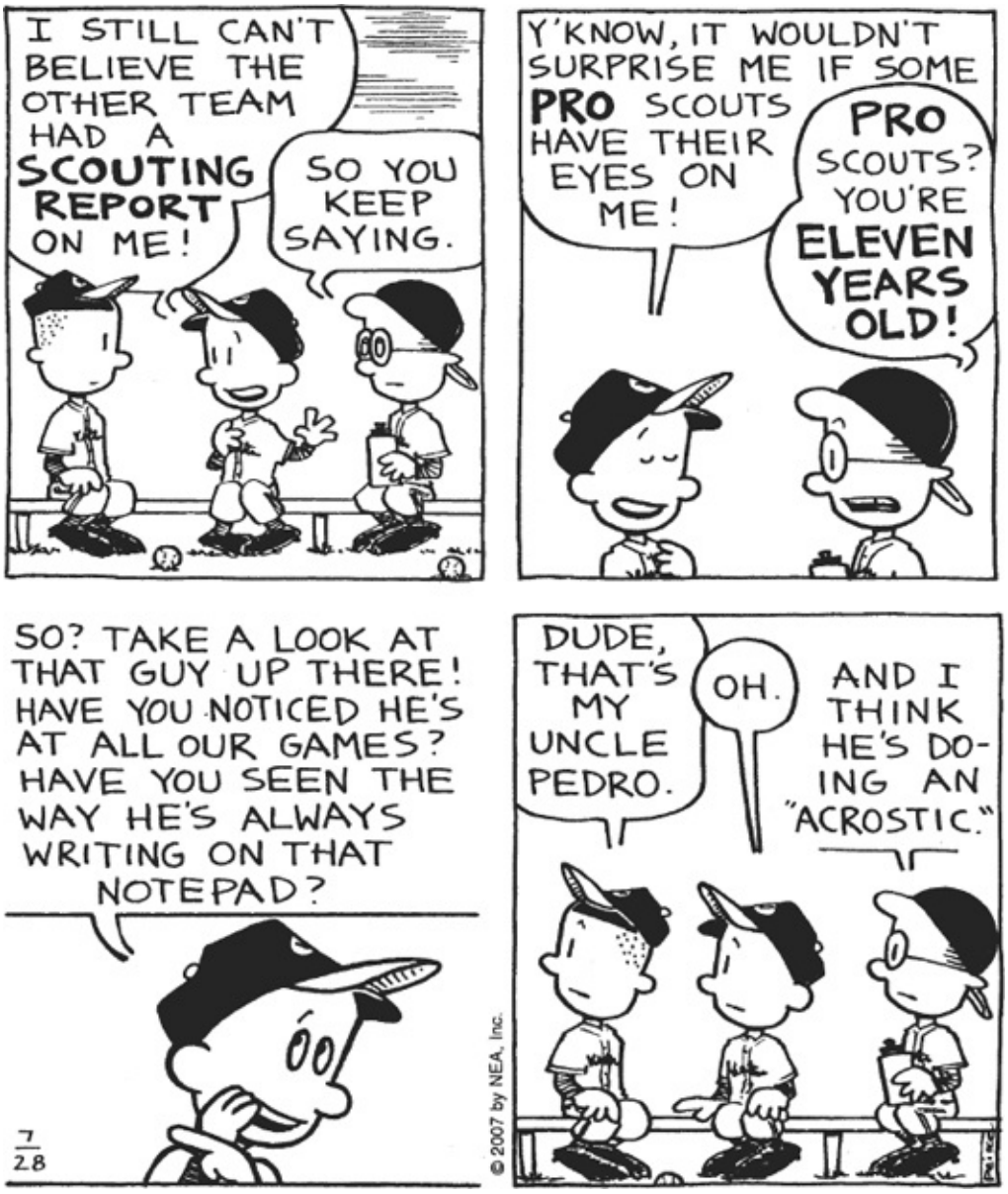
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE OTHER TEAM HAD A SCOUTING REPORT ON ME!
SO YOU KEEP SAYING.
Y'KNOW, IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF SOME PRO SCOUTS HAVE THEIR EYES ON ME!
PRO SCOUTS? YOU'RE ELEVEN YEARS OLD!
SO? TAKE A LOOK AT THAT GUY UP THERE! HAVE YOU NOTICED HE'S AT ALL OUR GAMES? HAVE YOU SEEN THE WAY HE'S ALWAYS WRITING ON THAT NOTEPAD?
DUDE, THAT'S MY UNCLE PEDRO.
OH.
AND I THINK HE'S DOING AN "ACROSTIC."
7/28
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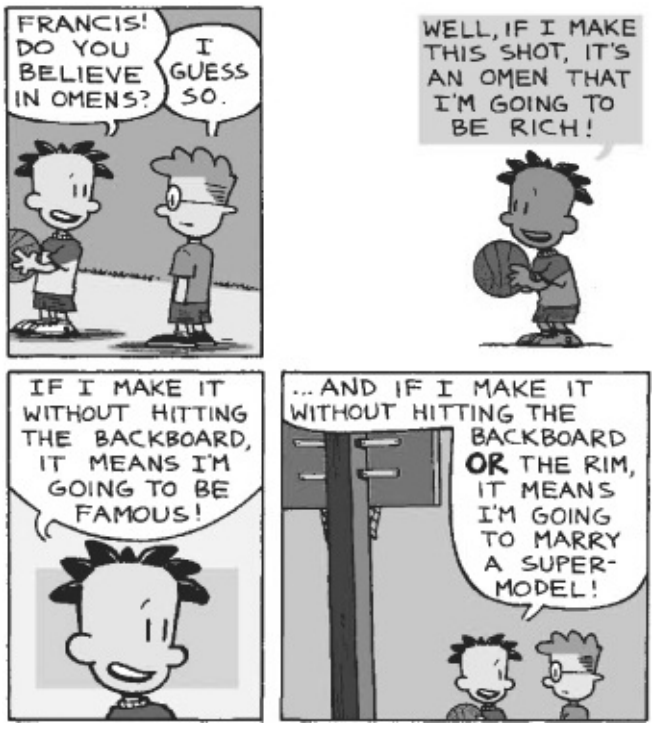
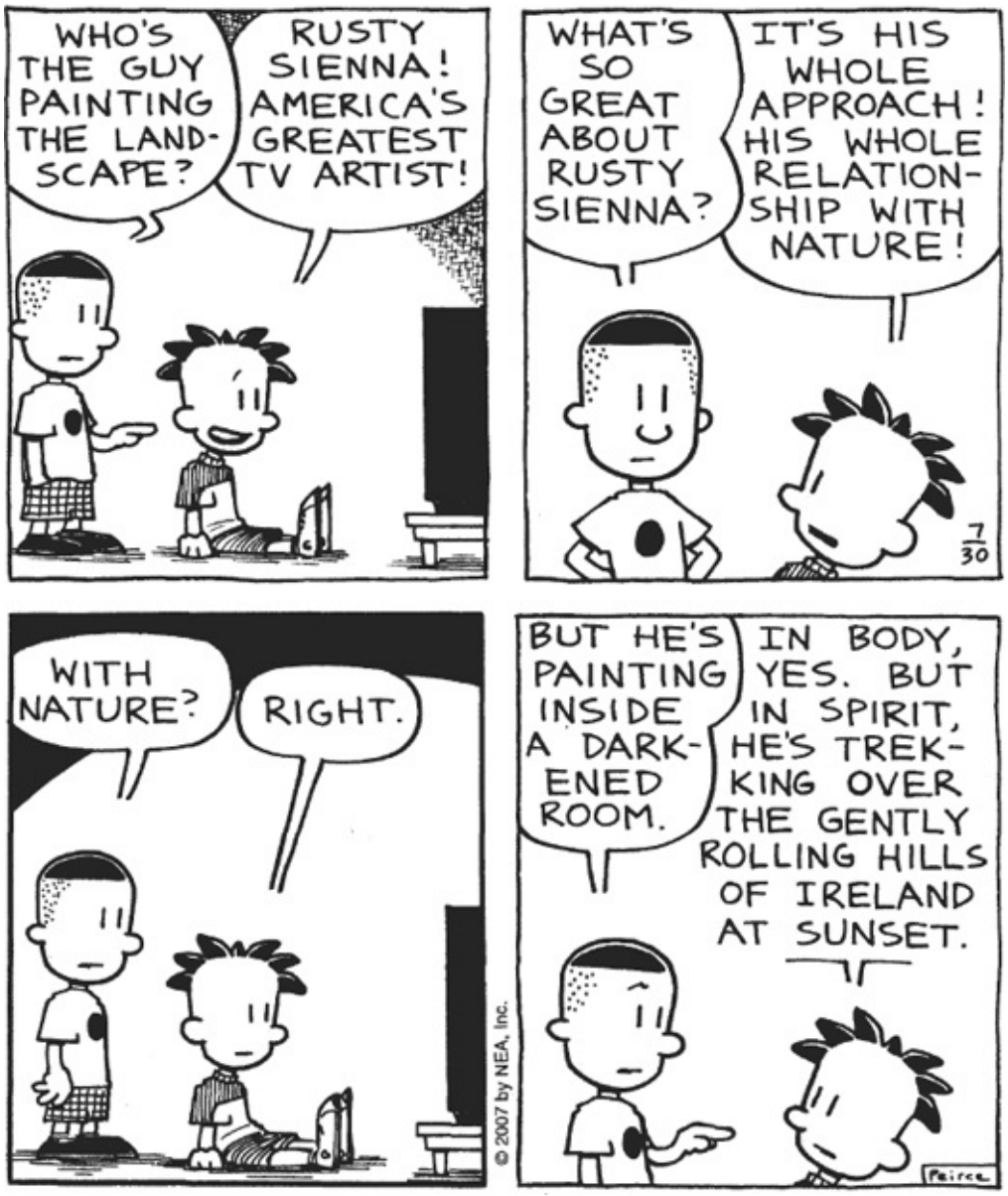

FRANCIS! DO YOU BELIEVE IN OMENS?
I GUESS SO.
WELL, IF I MAKE THIS SHOT, IT'S AN OMEN THAT I'M GOING TO BE RICH!
IF I MAKE IT WITHOUT HITTING THE BACKBOARD, IT MEANS I'M GOING TO BE FAMOUS!
...AND IF I MAKE IT WITHOUT HITTING THE BACKBOARD OR THE RIM, IT MEANS I'M GOING TO MARRY A SUPER-MODEL!

→

FLING!
CLANG!
CRASH!
MYOWR!
Screeee..
THUMP!
WHAT IF YOU MISS, AND THEN THE BALL BREAKS A WINDOW, HITS A CAT, ROLLS INTO THE STREET, AND GETS RUN OVER BY A DUMP TRUCK?
THEN IT'S A PRACTICE SHOT.

big NATE


WHO'S THE GUY PAINTING THE LAND-SCAPE?
RUSTY SIENNA! AMERICA'S GREATEST TV ARTIST!
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT RUSTY SIENNA?
IT'S HIS WHOLE APPROACH! HIS WHOLE RELATION-SHIP WITH NATURE!
7/30
WITH NATURE?
RIGHT.
BUT HE'S PAINTING INSIDE A DARK-ENED ROOM.
IN BODY, YES. BUT IN SPIRIT, HE'S TREK-KING OVER THE GENTLY ROLLING HILLS OF IRELAND AT SUNSET.
Peirce
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LOOK AT THAT TECHNIQUE! RUSTY SIENNA IS THE GREATEST PAINTER IN THE WORLD TODAY!
THEN WHAT'S HE DOING HOSTING A CHEESY TV SHOW? WHY ISN'T HE IN A MUSEUM OR SOMETHING?
LOOK, TEDDY, DON'T ASK ME TO EXPLAIN THE ABSURDITIES OF THE ART WORLD!
ALL I KNOW IS: WHEN RUSTY PAINTS A LAKE, IT LOOKS LIKE A LAKE! WHEN HE PAINTS A TREE, IT LOOKS LIKE A TREE! WHEN HE PAINTS AN ALP, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ALP!
7/31
"AN ALP"?
YOU CAN TELL IT'S AN ALP BECAUSE OF THE SHEPHERD GIRL IN THE CORNER.
Feiffer
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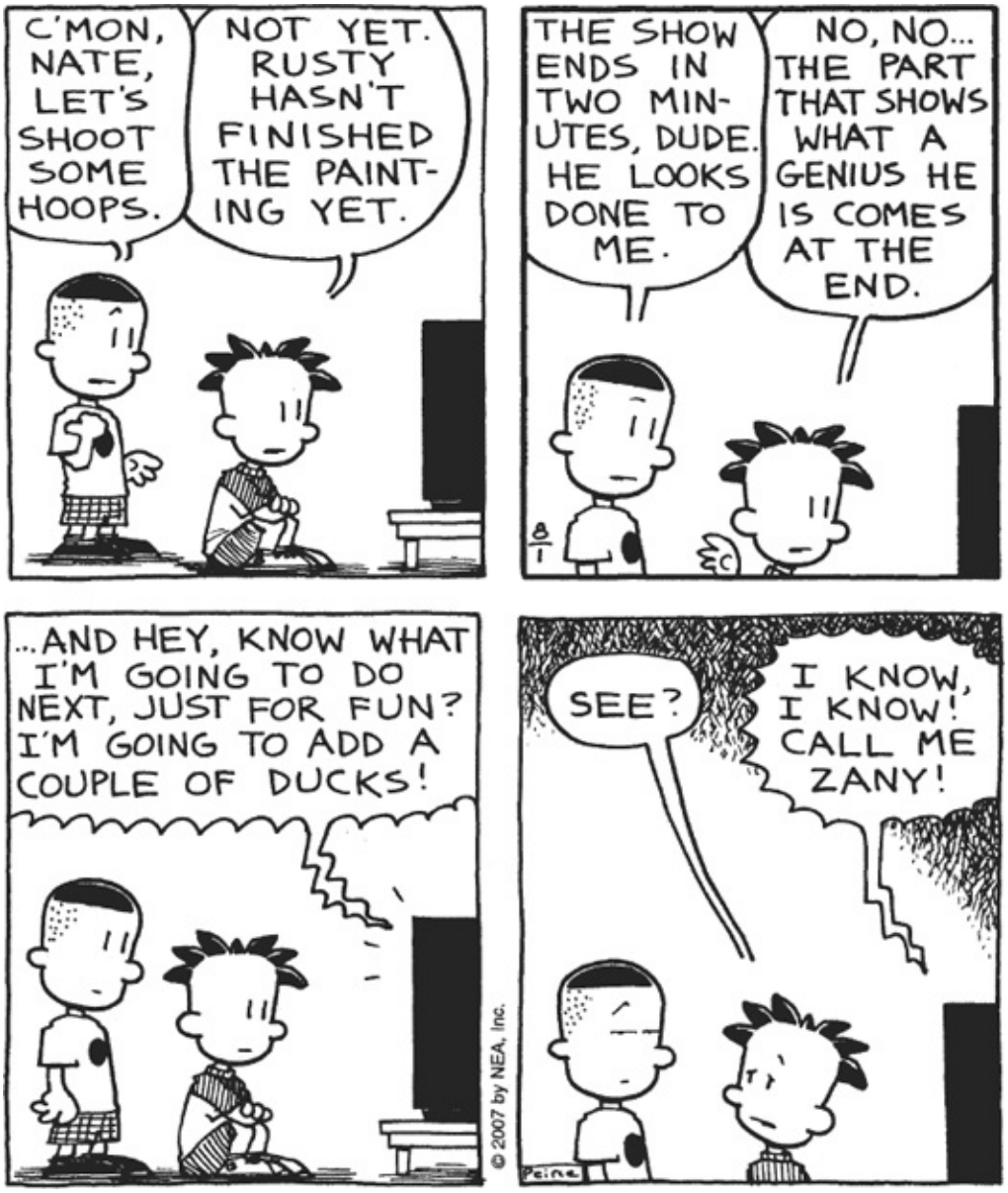
C'MON, NATE, LET'S SHOOT SOME HOOPS.
NOT YET. RUSTY HASN'T FINISHED THE PAINTING YET.
THE SHOW ENDS IN TWO MINUTES, DUDE. HE LOOKS DONE TO ME.
NO, NO... THE PART THAT SHOWS WHAT A GENIUS HE IS COMES AT THE END.
...AND HEY, KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO NEXT, JUST FOR FUN? I'M GOING TO ADD A COUPLE OF DUCKS!
SEE?
I KNOW, I KNOW! CALL ME ZANY!
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WHAT'S UP?
I JUST GOOGLED RUSTY SIENNA! I'M THINKING OF SENDING HIM A FAN LETTER!
LET'S SEE... "RUSTY SIENNA, AMERICA'S FAVORITE TELEVISION ARTIST... BLAH BLAH BLAH... BORN APRIL 28TH, 1940."...
8/2
"DIED MAY 7TH, 1996."
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT HE LOOKED KIND OF PALE.
PEIRCE
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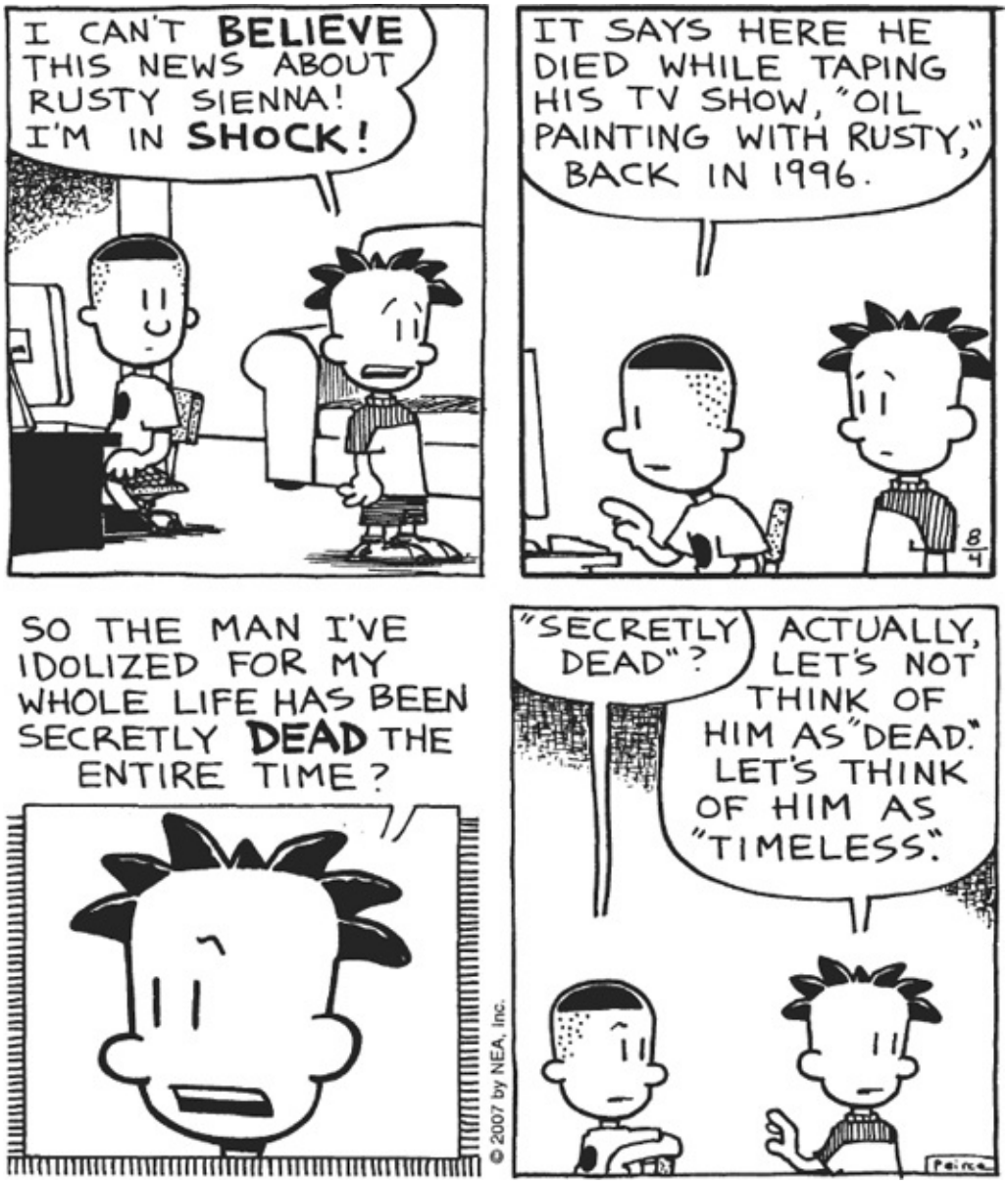
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS NEWS ABOUT RUSTY SIENNA! I'M IN SHOCK!
IT SAYS HERE HE DIED WHILE TAPING HIS TV SHOW, "OIL PAINTING WITH RUSTY," BACK IN 1996.
8/4
SO THE MAN I'VE IDOLIZED FOR MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN SECRETLY DEAD THE ENTIRE TIME?
"SECRETLY DEAD"?
ACTUALLY, LET'S NOT THINK OF HIM AS "DEAD." LET'S THINK OF HIM AS "TIMELESS."
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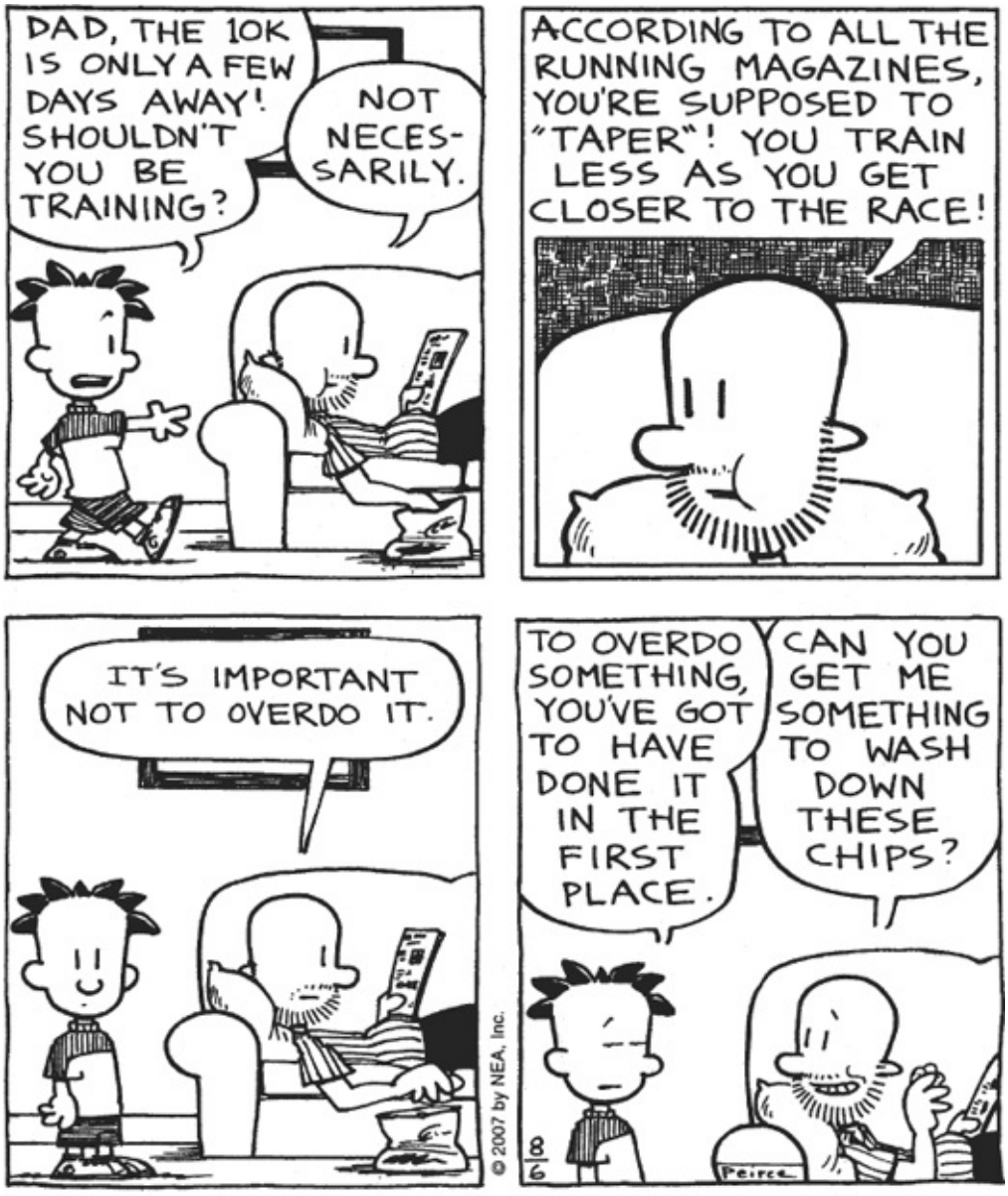
HERE YA GO, KID.
THANKS!
SLUP!
NO, SPITSY! BACK OFF! THIS IS MINE!
WURF!
I SAID NO, YOU FLEABAG! I'M NOT SHARING MY ICE CREAM!
AND DON'T ASK ME TO BUY YOU ONE OF YOUR OWN, EITHER! I'M OUT OF MONEY!
WOORF?

→

WHIMPER...
SIGH...
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... GIVE ME THAT TENNIS BALL.
FRANCIS.
HM?
CATCH.
GAH!
DON'T SAY I NEVER DO ANYTHING NICE FOR YOU.
SLORPF
SLORPF
SLORPF
SLORPF
SLORPF

big NATE


DAD, THE 10K IS ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY! SHOULDN'T YOU BE TRAINING?
NOT NECES-SARILY.
ACCORDING TO ALL THE RUNNING MAGAZINES, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO "TAPER"! YOU TRAIN LESS AS YOU GET CLOSER TO THE RACE!
IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO OVERDO IT.
TO OVERDO SOMETHING, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE DONE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
CAN YOU GET ME SOMETHING TO WASH DOWN THESE CHIPS?
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8/6
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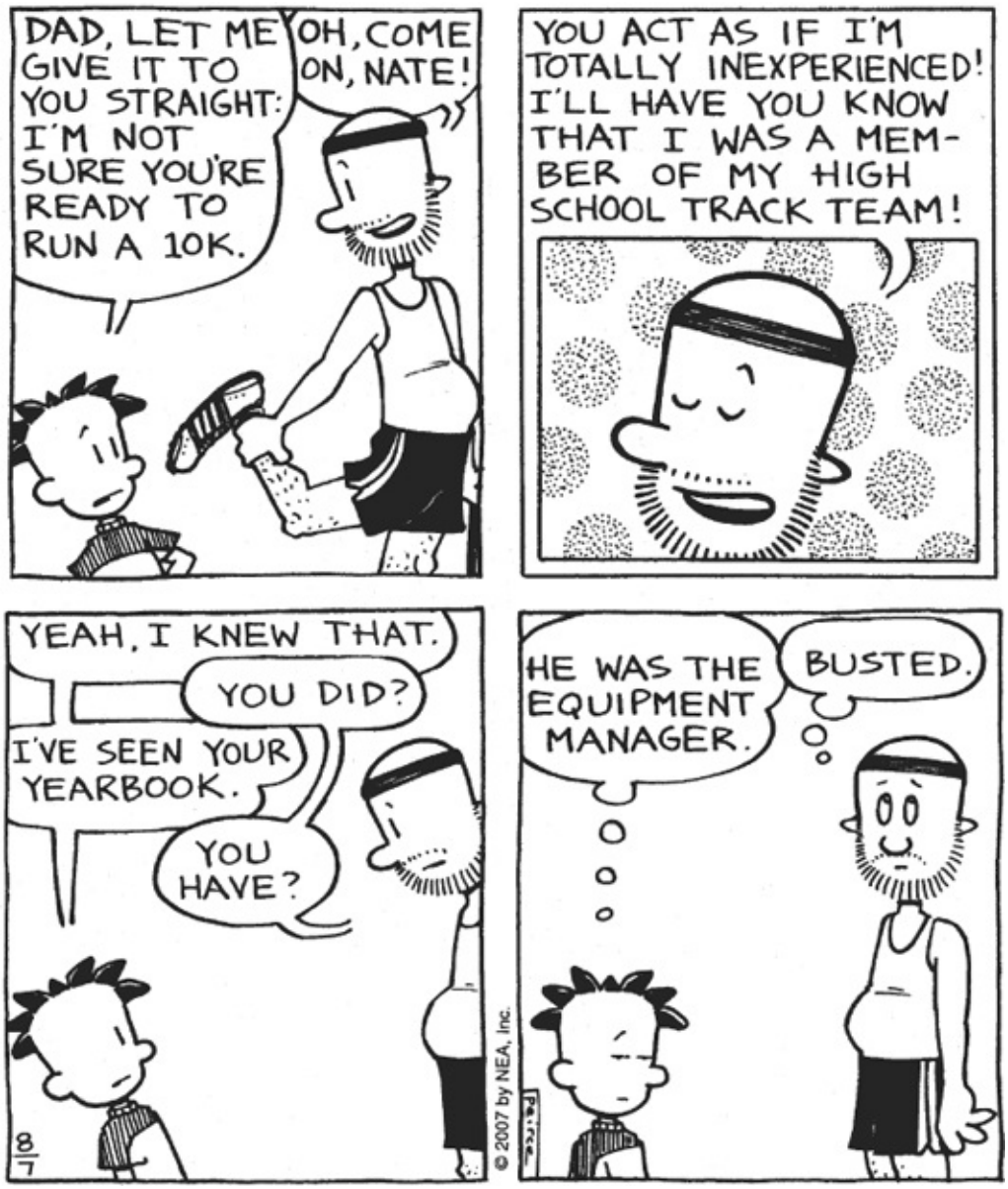
DAD, LET ME GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT: I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE READY TO RUN A 10K.
OH, COME ON, NATE!
YOU ACT AS IF I'M TOTALLY INEXPERIENCED! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I WAS A MEMBER OF MY HIGH SCHOOL TRACK TEAM!
YEAH, I KNEW THAT.
YOU DID?
I'VE SEEN YOUR YEARBOOK.
YOU HAVE?
HE WAS THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER.
BUSTED.
8/7
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GASP! HOW'D I DO?
TWENTY MINUTES ON THE DOT.
WRIGHT
WHAT? BUT I WAS AT THE HALFWAY POINT IN ONLY EIGHT MINUTES!
8/8
WHY WAS MY SECOND HALF SO MUCH SLOWER?
COULD IT HAVE BEEN YOUR PIT STOP AT "STAR-BUCKS"?
NO, NO... THERE WAS NO LINE.
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DAD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
CARBO LOADING!
MUNCH SLURP
ACCORDING TO ALL THE ARTICLES, NOTHING BEATS A BIG PLATE OF PASTA FOR A PRE-RACE MEAL!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO CARBO LOAD THE NIGHT BEFORE YOU RUN!!
OH.
IT'S 7:00 A.M., DAD. YOUR RACE STARTS IN AN HOUR.
EXACTLY. SO I'M TRYING TO EAT FAST.
NARF NARF
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ARRGH!
WHAT'S UP, DAD?
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THIS BRAIN TEASER FOR AN HOUR!
MAY I ?
BE MY GUEST. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
MM.... MMM HMM...

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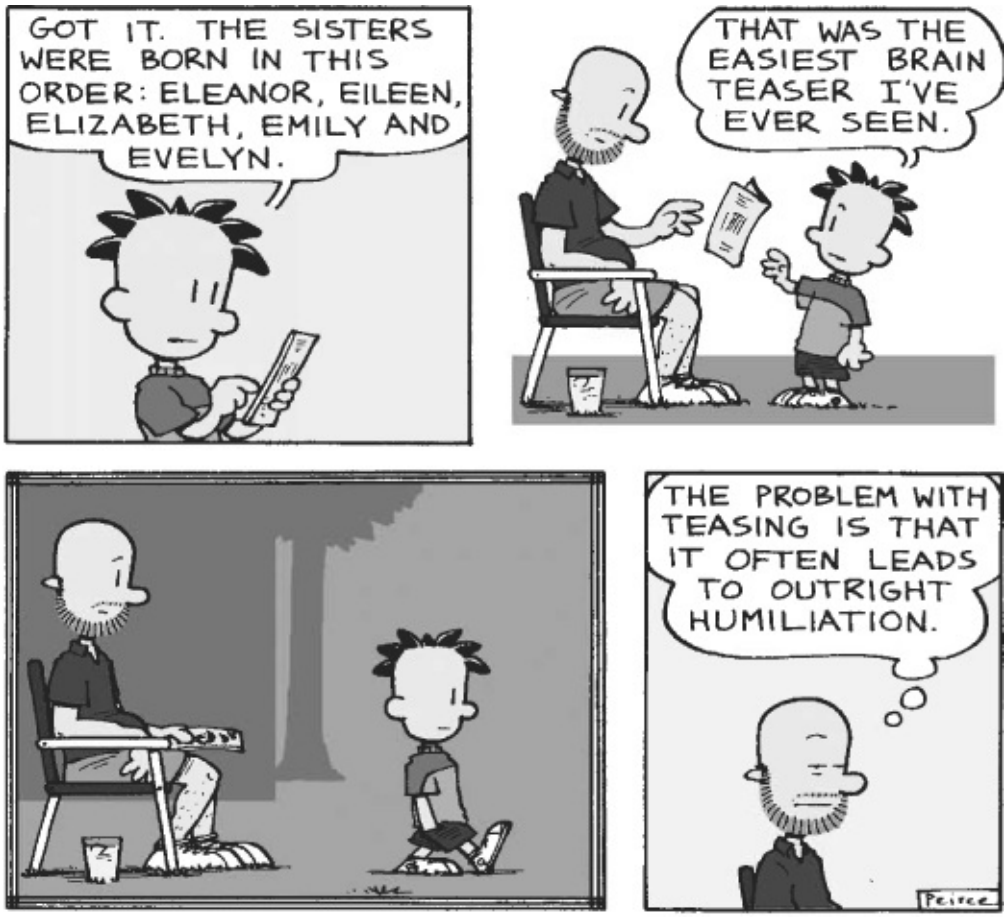
GOT IT. THE SISTERS WERE BORN IN THIS ORDER: ELEANOR, EILEEN, ELIZABETH, EMILY AND EVELYN.
THAT WAS THE EASIEST BRAIN TEASER I'VE EVER SEEN.
THE PROBLEM WITH TEASING IS THAT IT OFTEN LEADS TO OUTRIGHT HUMILIATION.
Peirce

big NATE

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LINE UP, RUNNERS!
THIS IS MY FIRST 10K.
OH, REALLY? YOU'LL LOVE IT! IT'S TREMENDOUS!
I'VE RUN THIS COURSE MANY TIMES, AND IT'S BRUTAL! IT'S PUNISHING! THAT'S WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT!
LAST YEAR I PUKED MY GUTS OUT ON THE HILLS AND STILL RAN A PERSONAL BEST! THAT, MY FRIEND, IS WHY WE RUN!
IT IS?
SHAKE HANDS WITH THE PAIN!
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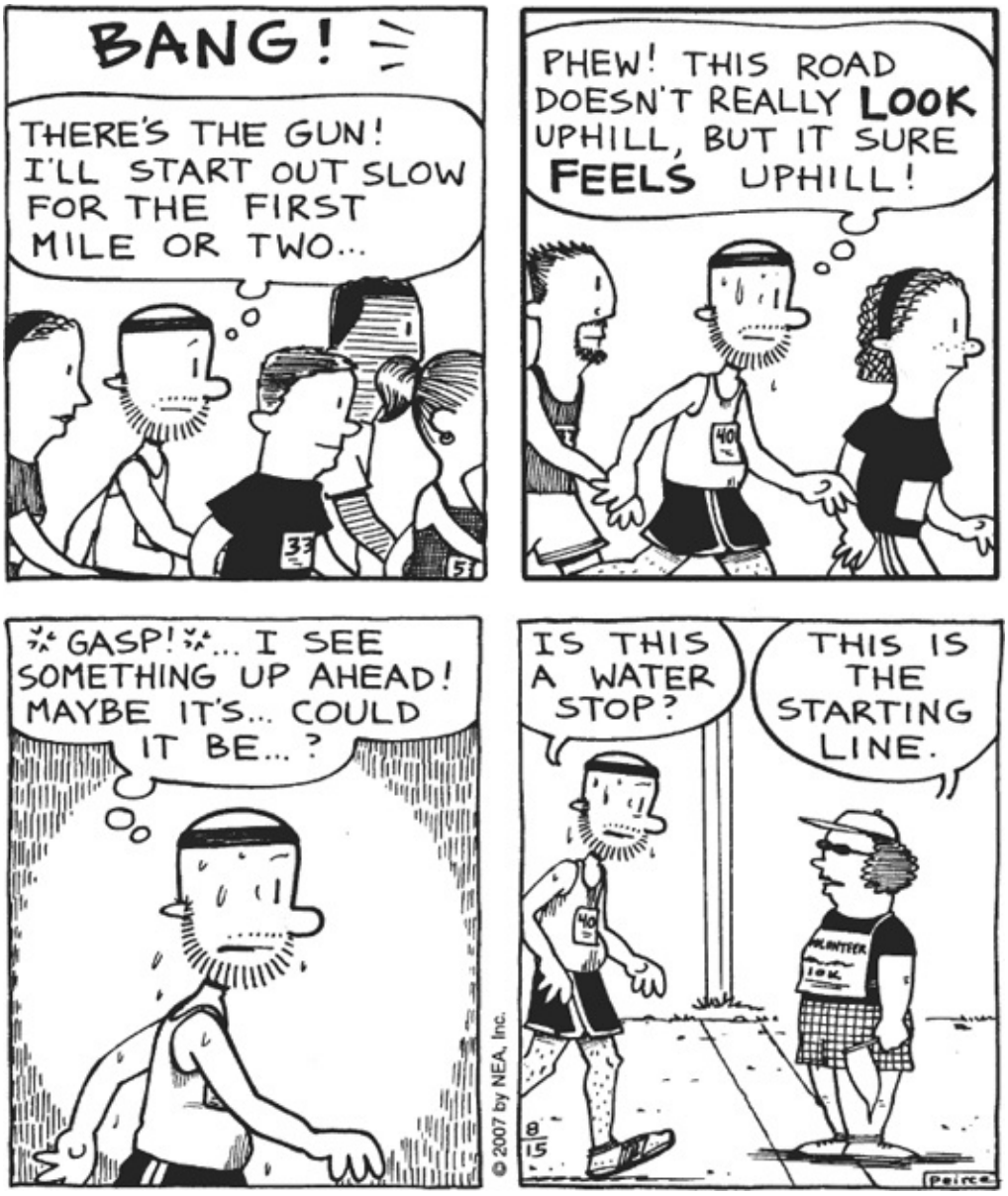

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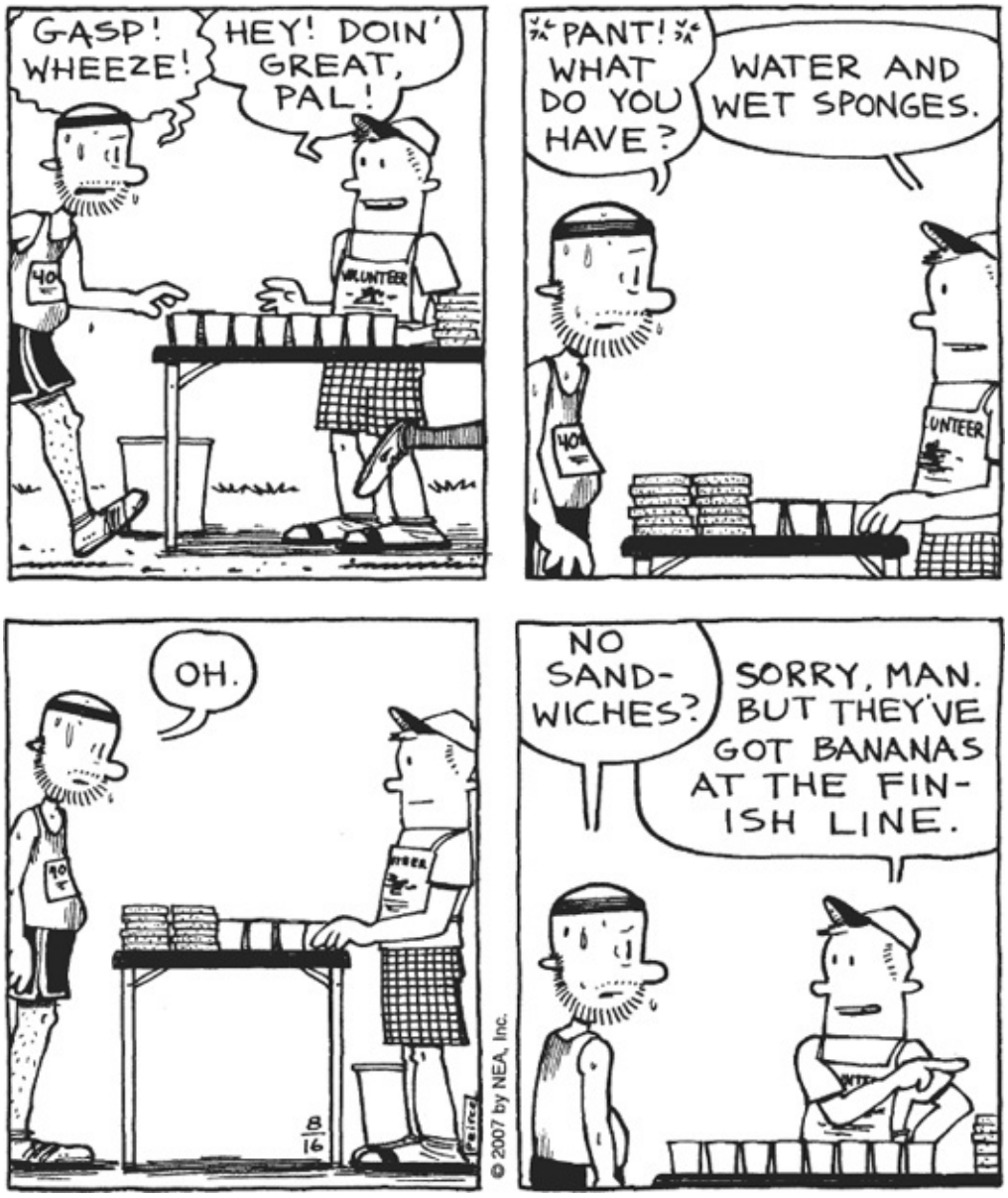
GASP! WHEEZE!
HEY! DOIN' GREAT, PAL!
PANT! WHAT DO YOU HAVE?
WATER AND WET SPONGES.
OH.
NO SAND-WICHES?
SORRY, MAN. BUT THEY'VE GOT BANANAS AT THE FIN-ISH LINE.
8/16
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.

GASP!... I'M COOKED! I'M NOT SURE I CAN KEEP GOING!... I.... I....
7K
?... WHAT'S THIS?... THIS GUY WHO'S COMING UP BEHIND ME LOOKS ABOUT EIGHTY YEARS OLD!
8/17
I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET PASSED BY SOMEBODY TWICE MY AGE! I CAN'T!... I WON'T!
YES, I WILL.
COMIN' THROUGH, SONNY!
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GO, DAD, GO! FINISH STRONG! YES!!
I MADE IT! GASP! I DID IT!
GREAT JOB, DAD!
...AND I DIDN'T FINISH LAST! DID YOU SEE ME PASS THOSE TWO LADIES IN THE HOME STRETCH?
UH... YEAH! YES!
8/18
THEY WEREN'T IN THE RACE, WERE THEY?
NO, THEY WERE WALKING THEIR DOGS. BUT YOU BLEW BY THEM!
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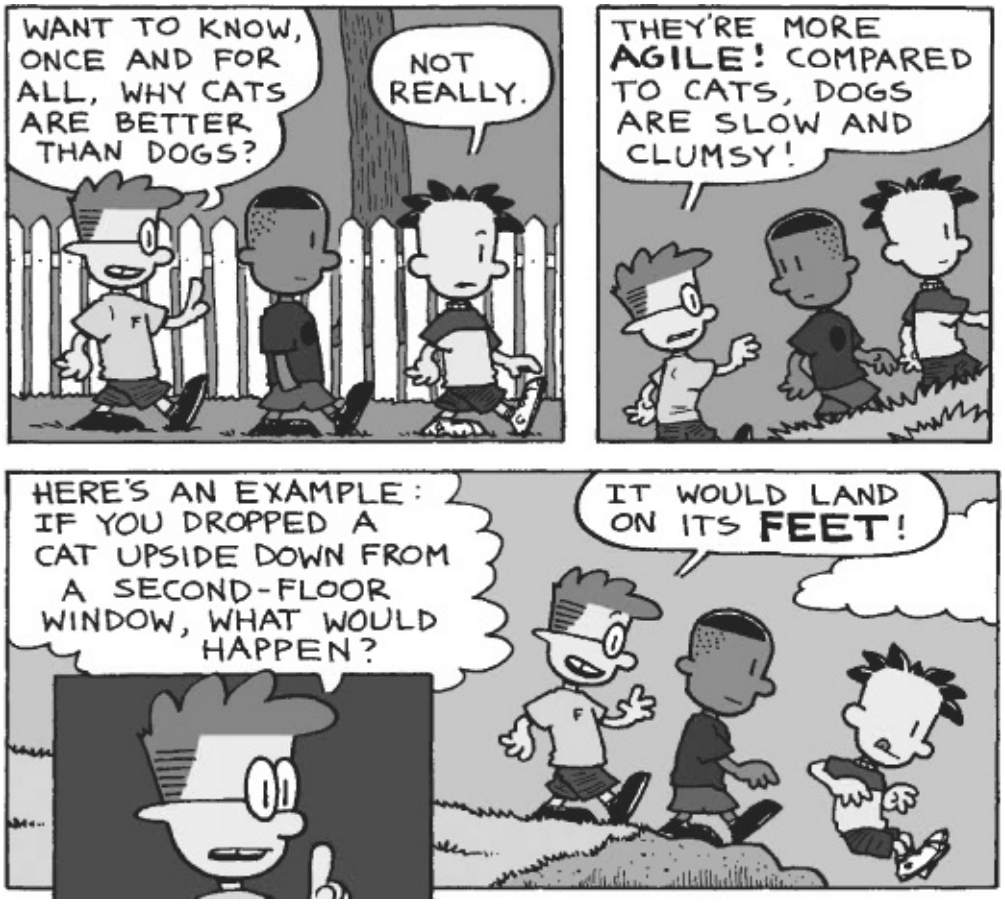
Peirce


WANT TO KNOW, ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHY CATS ARE BETTER THAN DOGS?
NOT REALLY.
THEY'RE MORE AGILE! COMPARED TO CATS, DOGS ARE SLOW AND CLUMSY!
HERE'S AN EXAMPLE: IF YOU DROPPED A CAT UPSIDE DOWN FROM A SECOND-FLOOR WINDOW, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
IT WOULD LAND ON ITS FEET!

→

NOW!... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DROPPED A DOG UPSIDE DOWN FROM THAT VERY SAME SECOND-FLOOR WINDOW?
IT WOULD LAND ON THE CAT.
HIGH FIVE!
THAT'S WHY YOU DROP THE CAT FIRST!

big NATE

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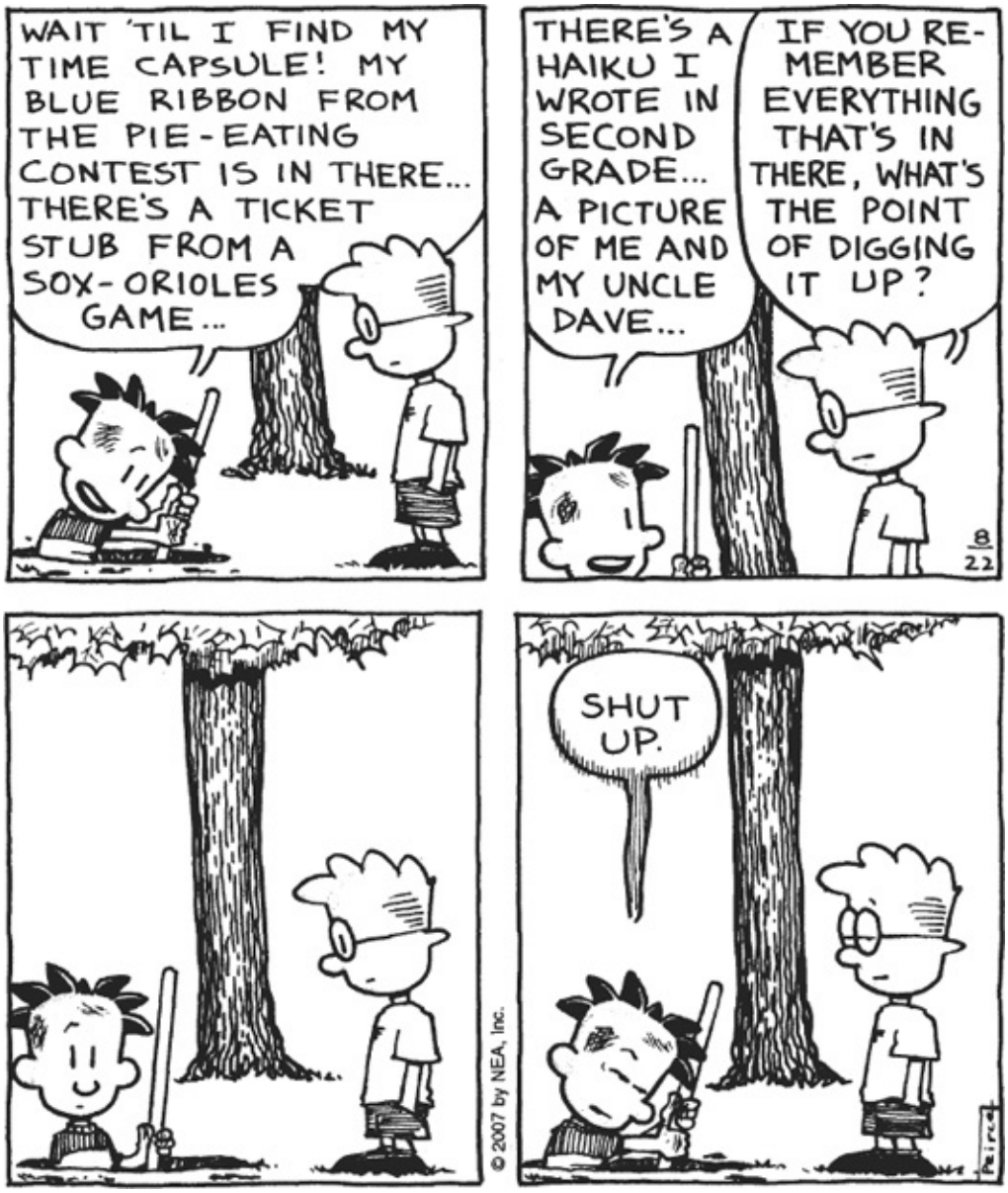
WAIT 'TIL I FIND MY TIME CAPSULE! MY BLUE RIBBON FROM THE PIE-EATING CONTEST IS IN THERE... THERE'S A TICKET STUB FROM A SOX-ORIOLES GAME...
THERE'S A HAIKU I WROTE IN SECOND GRADE... A PICTURE OF ME AND MY UNCLE DAVE...
IF YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT'S IN THERE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF DIGGING IT UP?
8/22
SHUT UP.
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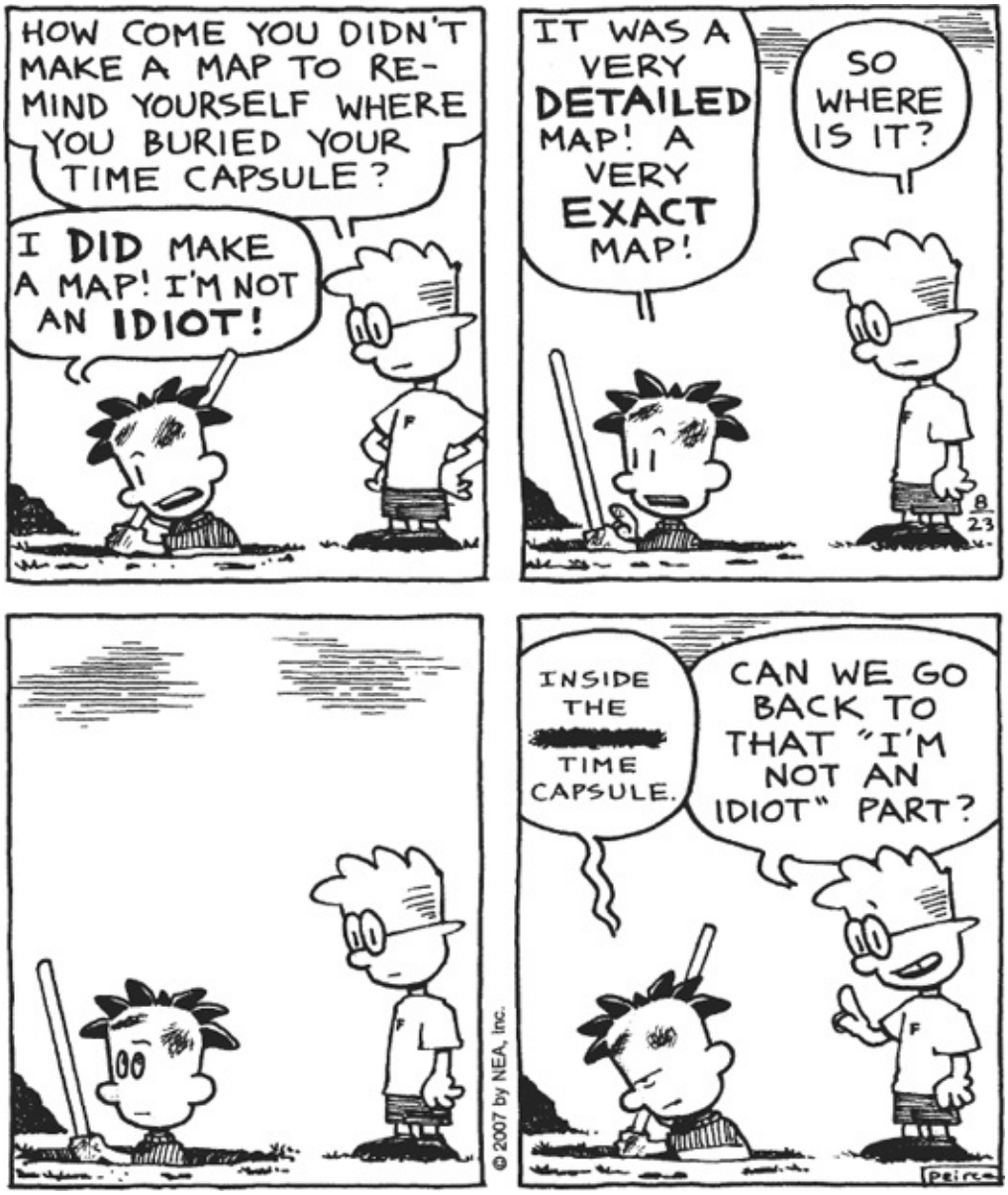
HOW COME YOU DIDN'T MAKE A MAP TO REMIND YOURSELF WHERE YOU BURIED YOUR TIME CAPSULE?
I DID MAKE A MAP! I'M NOT AN IDIOT!
IT WAS A VERY DETAILED MAP! A VERY EXACT MAP!
SO WHERE IS IT?
8/23
INSIDE THE [redacted] TIME CAPSULE.
CAN WE GO BACK TO THAT "I'M NOT AN IDIOT" PART?
peirce
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JACKPOT! I KNEW IT WAS HERE! I FOUND MY TIME CAPSULE!
...AND... YES! THEY SURVIVED! THEY DIDN'T DECOMPOSE!
"CHEEZ DOODLES" CAN LAST FOR THREE YEARS BURIED IN A CIGAR BOX FOUR FEET UNDERGROUND!!
WANT ONE?
ONLY IF YOU ALSO BURIED SOME "PEPTO-BISMOL".
CRUNCH...
A LITTLE BIT GRITTY, BUT STILL "PUFF-A-LICIOUS."
8/24
Peirce
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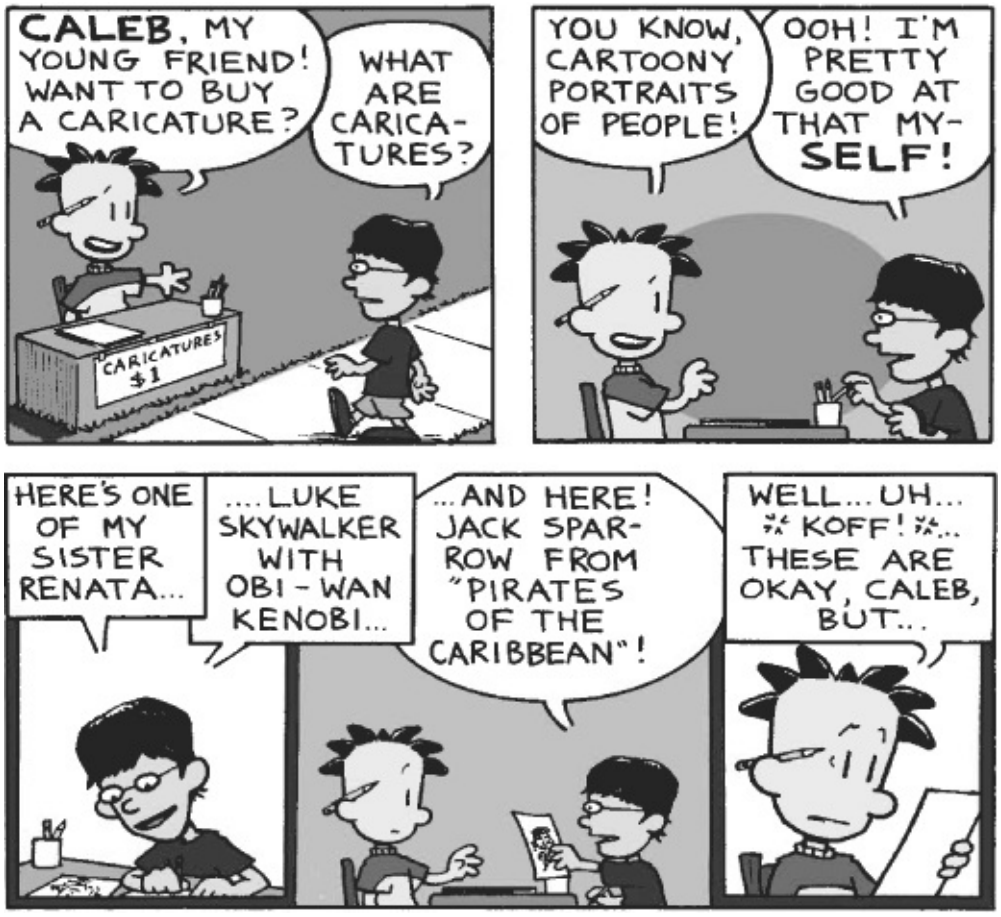
CALEB, MY YOUNG FRIEND! WANT TO BUY A CARICATURE?
WHAT ARE CARICA-TURES?
CARICATURES $1
YOU KNOW, CARTOONY PORTRAITS OF PEOPLE!
OOH! I'M PRETTY GOOD AT THAT MY-SELF!
HERE'S ONE OF MY SISTER RENATA...
....LUKE SKYWALKER WITH OBI-WAN KENOBI...
...AND HERE! JACK SPAR-ROW FROM "PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN"!
WELL...UH... *KOFF!*... THESE ARE OKAY, CALEB, BUT...

→

WOW, NATE! DID YOU DO THOSE?
THEY'RE GOOD!
HOW MUCH FOR THE PIRATE?
CARICATURES $1
UHHH...
CARICATURES $1
CARICATURES $2.00
Peirce

big NATE

SCHOOL STARTS IN EIGHT DAYS.
NO.
YEAH, IT DOES. ON SEPTEMBER 4TH.
NO. NO. NO.
9/27
YES, IT...
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
THIS IS A NEW STRATEGY FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
NO.
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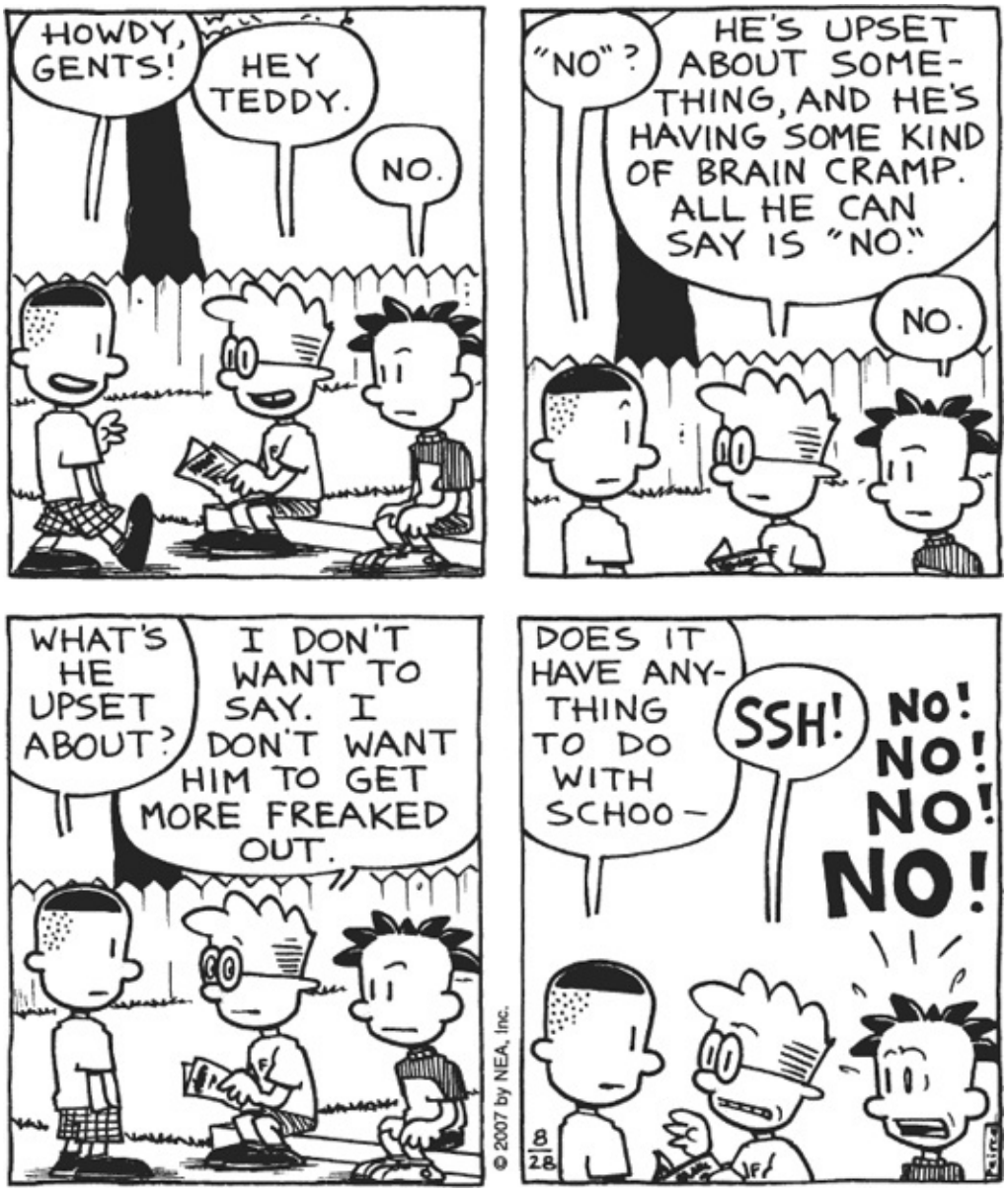
HOWDY, GENTS!
HEY TEDDY.
NO.
"NO"?
HE'S UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, AND HE'S HAVING SOME KIND OF BRAIN CRAMP. ALL HE CAN SAY IS "NO."
NO.
WHAT'S HE UPSET ABOUT?
I DON'T WANT TO SAY. I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET MORE FREAKED OUT.
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SCHOO—
SSH!
NO! NO! NO! NO!
8/28
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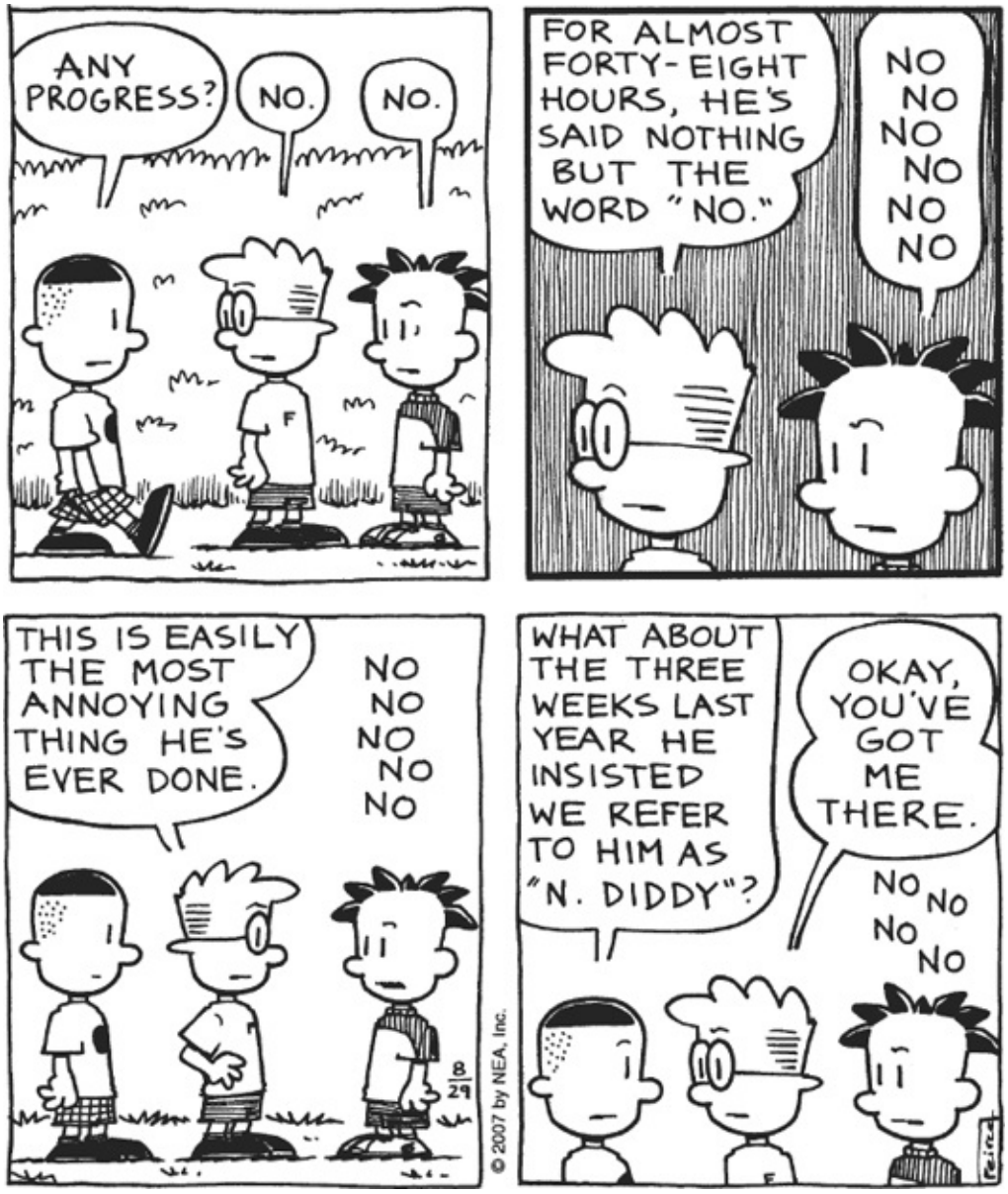
ANY PROGRESS?
NO.
NO.
FOR ALMOST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, HE'S SAID NOTHING BUT THE WORD "NO."
NO NO NO NO NO NO
THIS IS EASILY THE MOST ANNOYING THING HE'S EVER DONE.
NO NO NO NO NO
8/29
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.
WHAT ABOUT THE THREE WEEKS LAST YEAR HE INSISTED WE REFER TO HIM AS "N. DIDDY"?
OKAY, YOU'VE GOT ME THERE.
NO NO NO NO

HOW CAN WE MAKE HIM STOP?
LET'S TRY SOME AVERSION THERAPY.
NO NO NO NO
SNAP!
WHAT'S THAT?
WE MAKE HIM ASSOCIATE HIS BEHAVIOR WITH SOMETHING BAD HAPPENING.
NO NO NO NO
8/30
NO NO NO NO...
SWAT!
DIDN'T WORK.
GET ME A BIGGER STICK.
NO!
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HE STILL KEEPS SAYING "NO"! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
YOU'RE SO NEG-ATIVE, TEDDY! LET'S HAVE FUN WITH IT!
NO NO NO NO NO
"HAVE FUN WITH IT"?
NO NO NO NO
YEAH! LET'S HAVE... A BLAST!
8/31
BLAST!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TRYING OUT MY NEW AIR HORN!
SAY, THAT WAS FUN!
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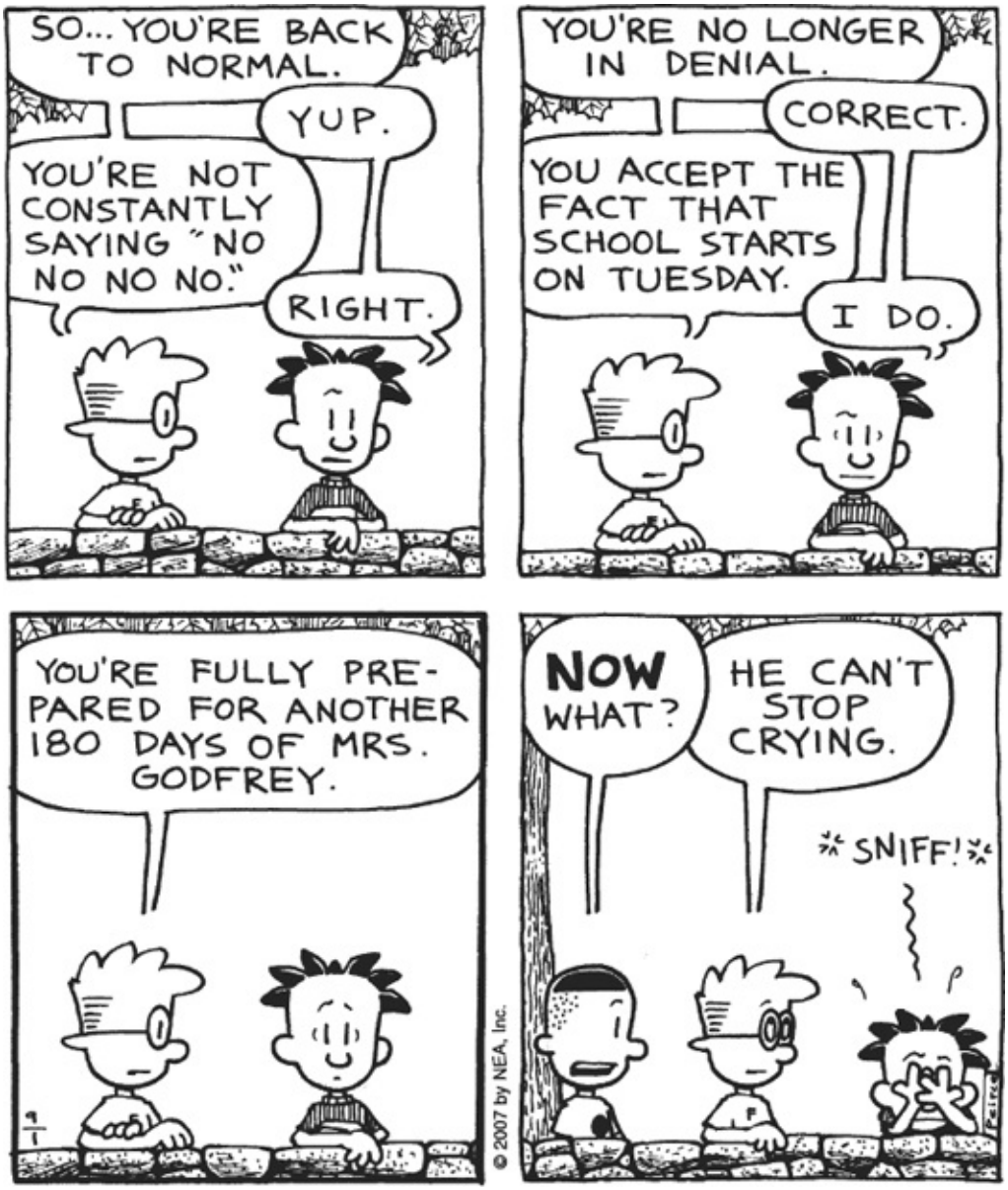
Feiffer


SO... YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL.
YUP.
YOU'RE NOT CONSTANTLY SAYING "NO NO NO NO."
RIGHT.
YOU'RE NO LONGER IN DENIAL.
CORRECT.
YOU ACCEPT THE FACT THAT SCHOOL STARTS ON TUESDAY.
I DO.
YOU'RE FULLY PREPARED FOR ANOTHER 180 DAYS OF MRS. GODFREY.
NOW WHAT?
HE CAN'T STOP CRYING.
SNIFF!
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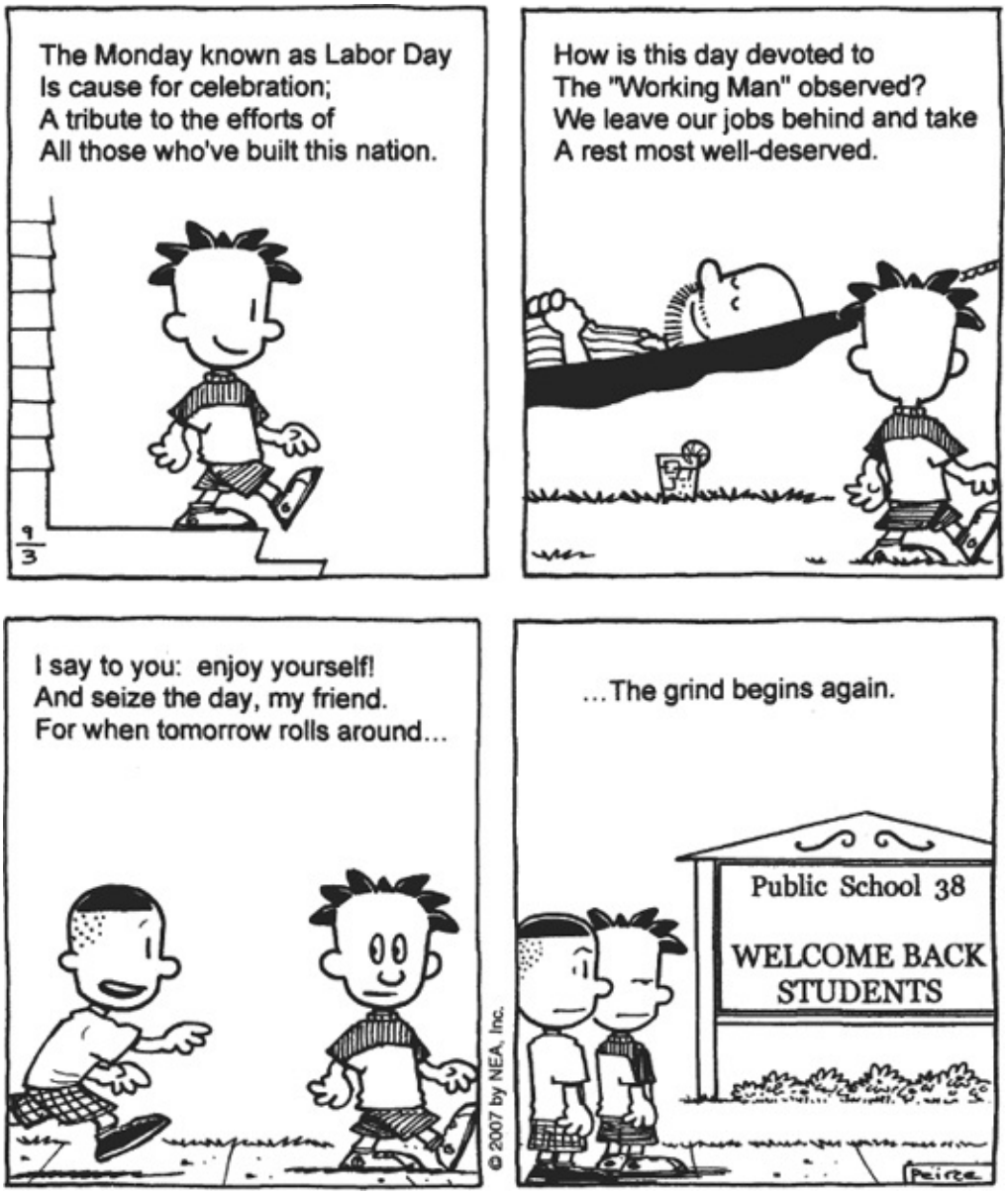
GAAH!
WHAT IS IT, NATE?
OH, MAN! WHAT A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!
MRS. GODFREY WAS IN IT!... AND SHE WAS LIVING HERE IN OUR HOUSE, AND...
EASY, SON. YOU'RE STRESSED ABOUT SCHOOL STARTING UP AGAIN, THAT'S ALL.

→

TELL YOU WHAT: JUST RELAX, AND I'LL BRING YOU A MUG OF HOT COCOA!
OKAY. THANKS, DAD.
WE'RE OUT OF COCOA...
GAAH!
HOW ABOUT A NICE TALL GLASS OF ASPARAGUS JUICE?

big NATE



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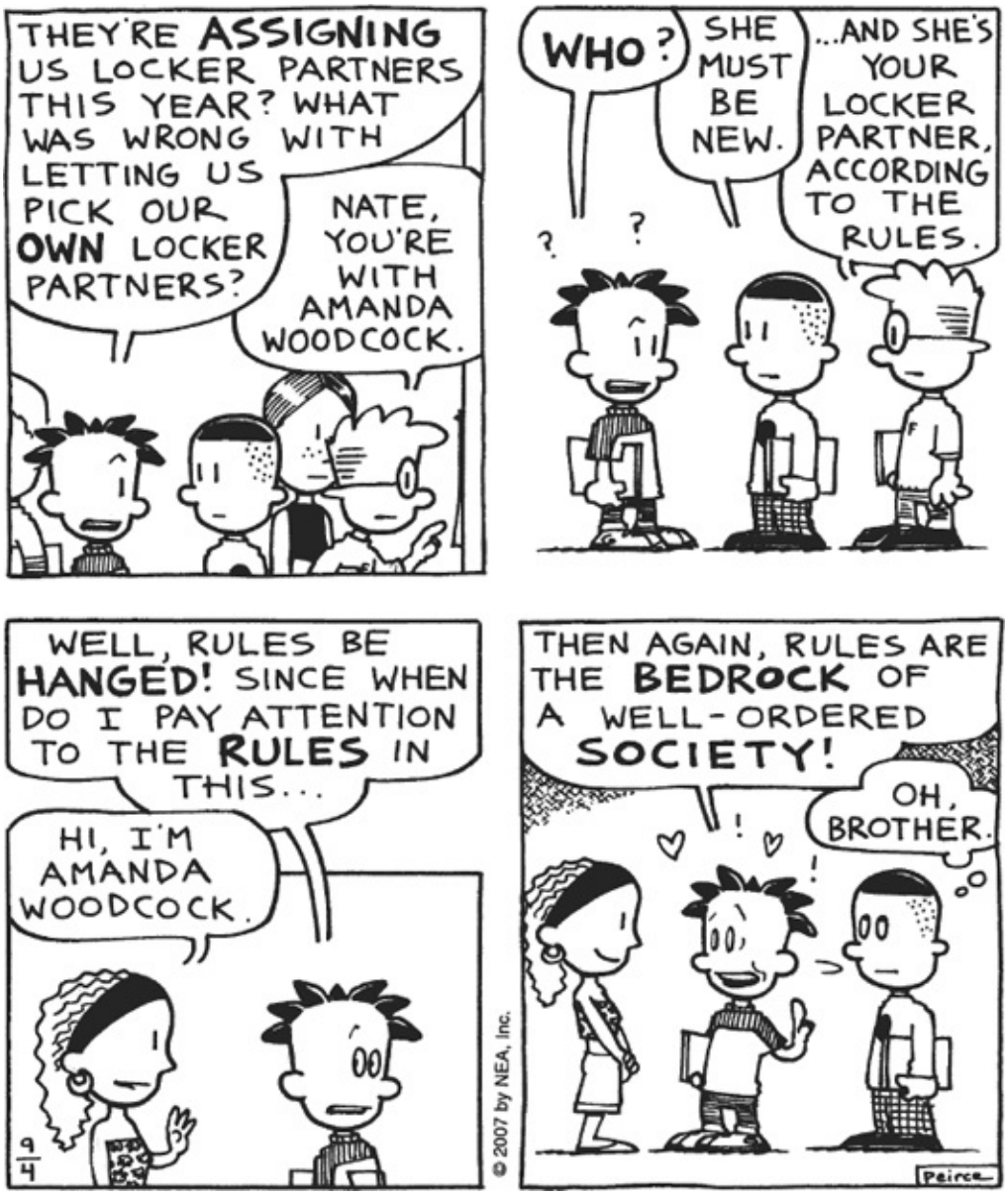
THEY'RE ASSIGNING US LOCKER PARTNERS THIS YEAR? WHAT WAS WRONG WITH LETTING US PICK OUR OWN LOCKER PARTNERS?
NATE, YOU'RE WITH AMANDA WOODCOCK.
WHO?
SHE MUST BE NEW.
...AND SHE'S YOUR LOCKER PARTNER, ACCORDING TO THE RULES.
? ?
WELL, RULES BE HANGED! SINCE WHEN DO I PAY ATTENTION TO THE RULES IN THIS...
HI, I'M AMANDA WOODCOCK.
9/4
THEN AGAIN, RULES ARE THE BEDROCK OF A WELL-ORDERED SOCIETY!
OH, BROTHER.
Peirce
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SO! AMANDA! YOU MUST BE NEW HERE!
YEAH, MY PARENTS ARE IN THE ARMY, SO WE MOVE AROUND A LOT.
9/5
WELL, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, JUST ASK ME, YOUR TRUSTY LOCKER PARTNER!
I WILL! THANKS, NATE!
I... I'M LOCKER PARTNERS WITH A HOTTIE!
I'M LOCKER PARTNERS WITH A HOTTIE!!
...AND WHAT A LUCKY, LUCKY GIRL SHE IS.
Cloud 9
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LOCKER PARTNERS WITH AMANDA! HOW LUCKY CAN I GET?!
SHARING A LOCKER MEANS I GET TO SEE HER SEVERAL TIMES EVERY DAY! WE'LL HANG OUT...GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER...
KLIK!
FOOM!
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE DOWNSIDE?
WHAT DOWNSIDE?
Peirce
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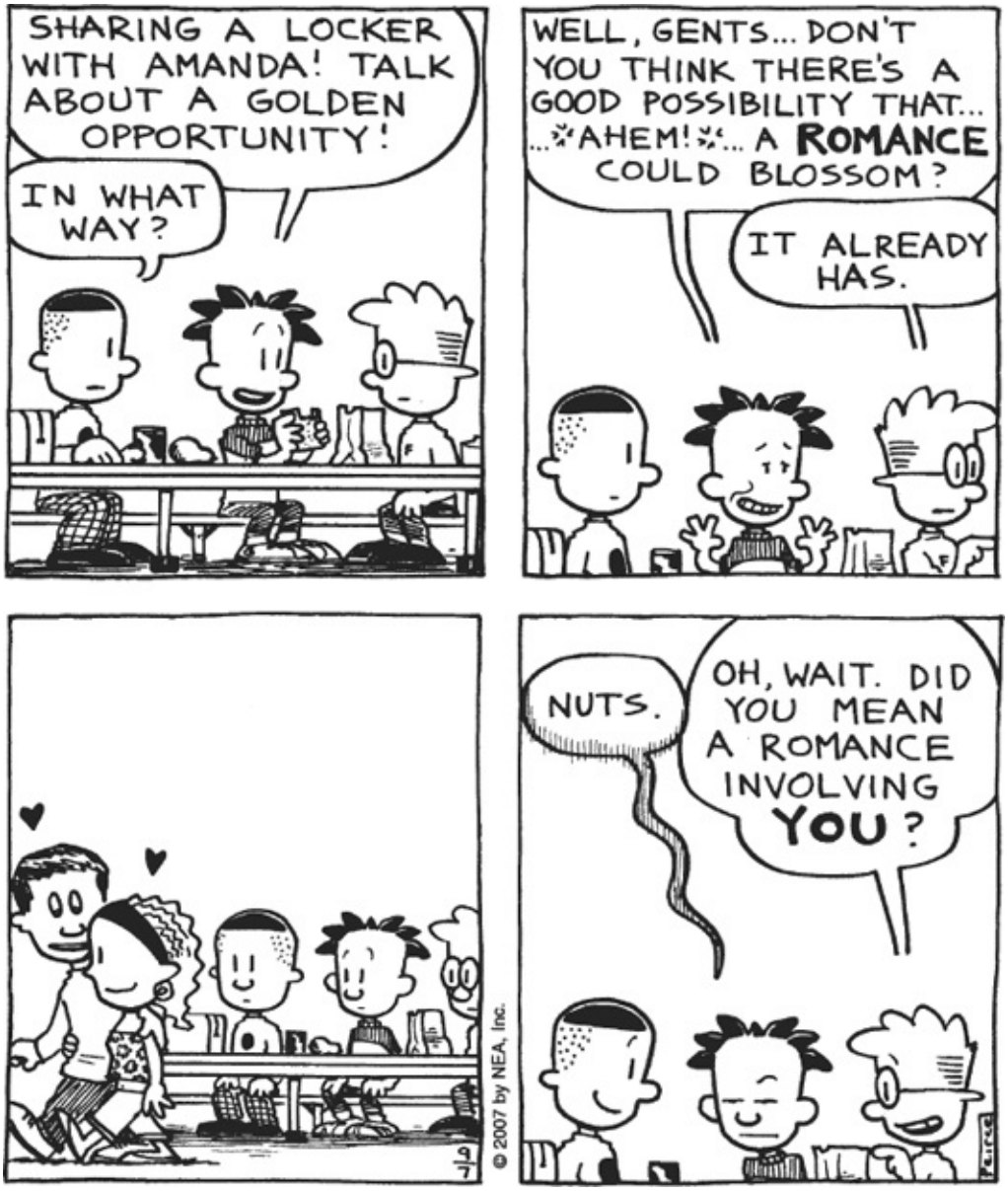
SHARING A LOCKER WITH AMANDA! TALK ABOUT A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
IN WHAT WAY?
WELL, GENTS... DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT...
...*AHEM!*... A ROMANCE COULD BLOSSOM?
IT ALREADY HAS.
NUTS.
OH, WAIT. DID YOU MEAN A ROMANCE INVOLVING YOU?
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I'M SORRY, NATE, BUT I CAN'T BE LOCKER PARTNERS WITH YOU ANYMORE.
WHAT?
AFTER ONE DAY?
WELL, I'M GOING OUT WITH JEREMY NOW, AND HE FEELS WEIRD ABOUT ME LOCKERING WITH ANOTHER BOY.
SO... HE'S THREATENED BY ME?
GUYS! I'M A THREAT!
IN MANY, MANY WAYS.
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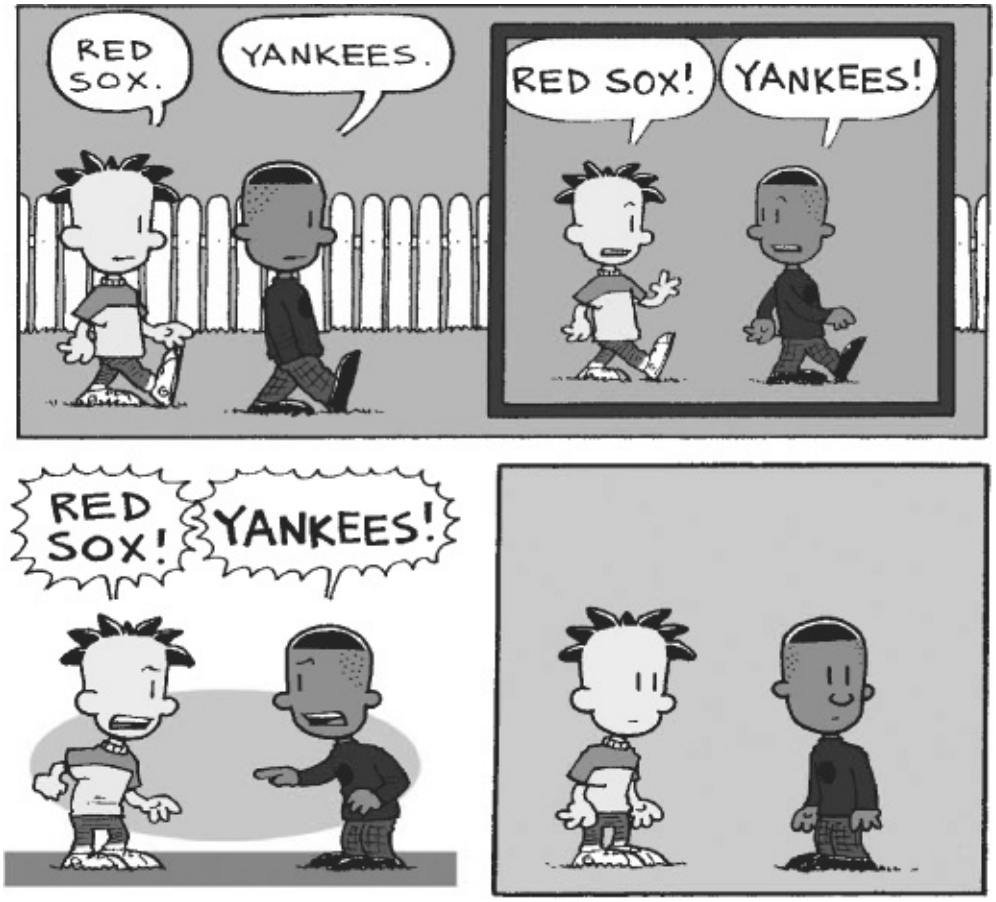
RED SOX.
YANKEES.
RED SOX!
YANKEES!
RED SOX!
YANKEES!

→

HEY! MISTER!
RED SOX OR YANKEES?
WASHINGTON SENATORS, BY CRACKY!
"BY CRACKY"?
THAT'S OLD SCHOOL RIGHT THERE.

big NATE

RRRRINNNGG!!
TAKE YOUR SEATS, PEOPLE. NATE, SPIT OUT THAT GUM.
DON'T JUST SPIT IT INTO THE CAN, FOR GOODNESS SAKE!! WRAP IT IN SOME PAPER FIRST!
NOT THAT PAPER! THAT'S MY ATTENDANCE SHEET!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF SUMMER VACATION NEVER EVEN HAPPENED!
OH, HOW I HATE HER.
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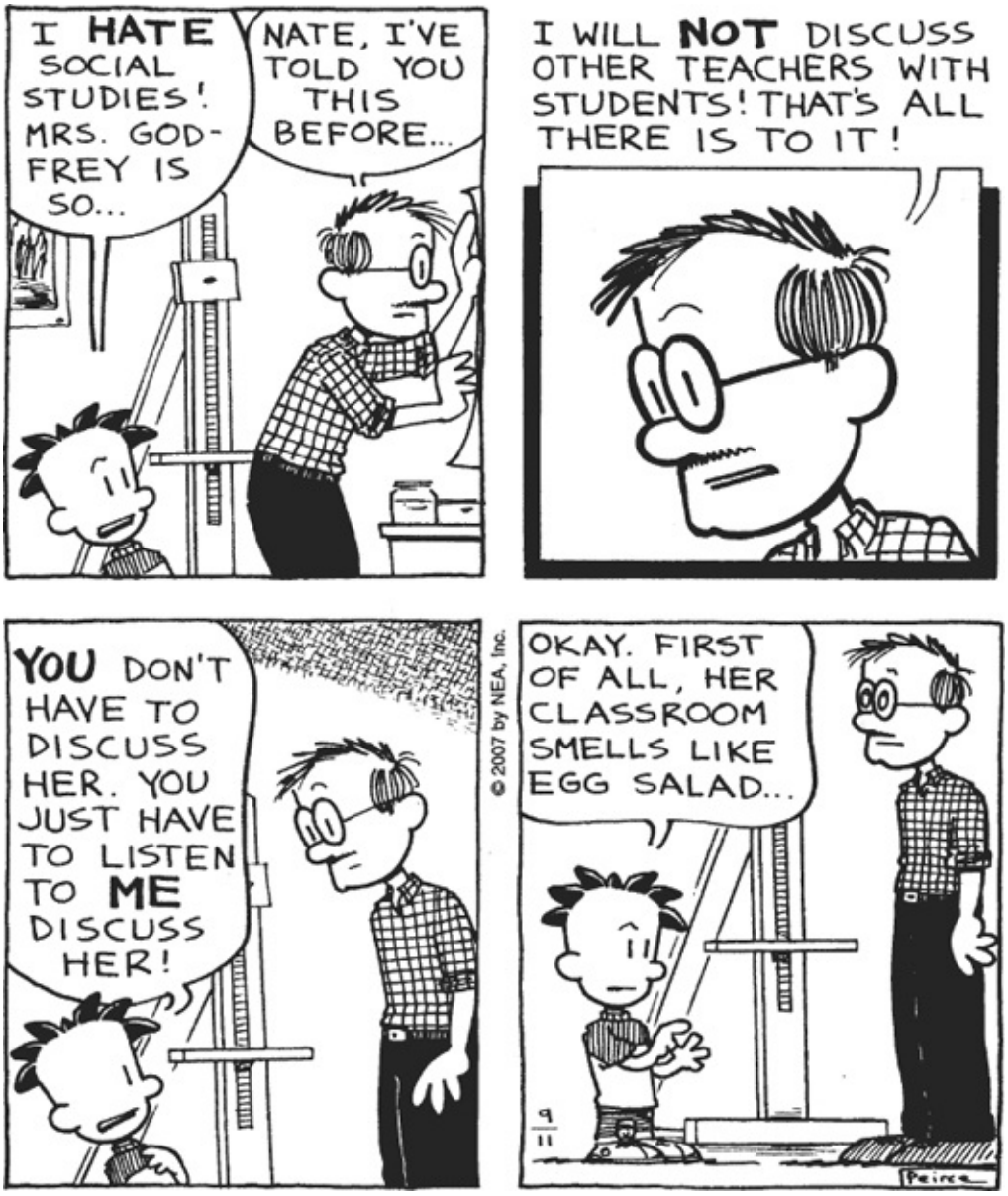
I HATE SOCIAL STUDIES! MRS. GODFREY IS SO...
NATE, I'VE TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE...
I WILL NOT DISCUSS OTHER TEACHERS WITH STUDENTS! THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DISCUSS HER. YOU JUST HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME DISCUSS HER!
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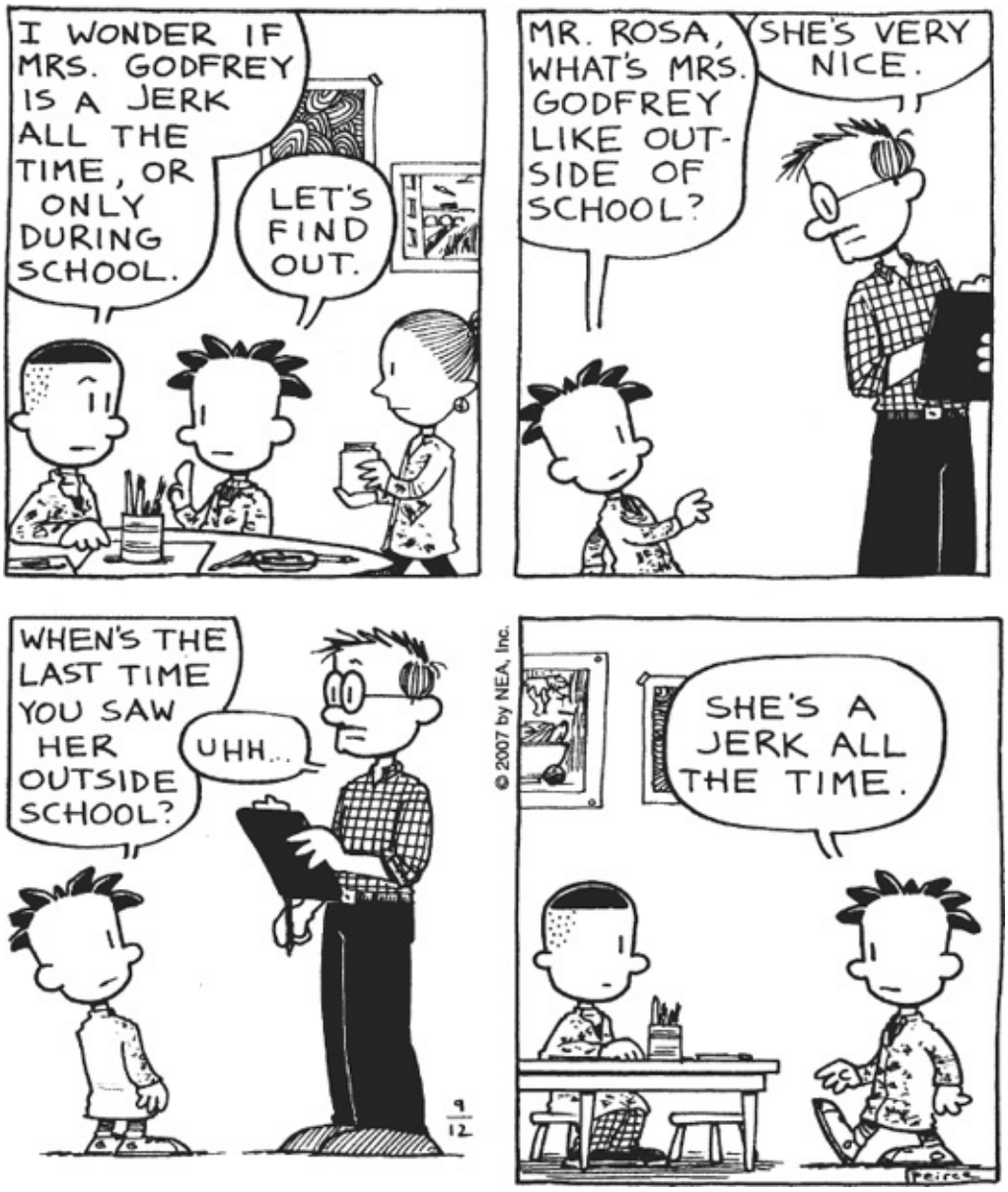
OKAY. FIRST OF ALL, HER CLASSROOM SMELLS LIKE EGG SALAD...
9/11
Peirce


I WONDER IF MRS. GODFREY IS A JERK ALL THE TIME, OR ONLY DURING SCHOOL.
LET'S FIND OUT.
MR. ROSA, WHAT'S MRS. GODFREY LIKE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?
SHE'S VERY NICE.
WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU SAW HER OUTSIDE SCHOOL?
UHH...
9/12
SHE'S A JERK ALL THE TIME.
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Peirce

DO YOU THINK TEACHERS EVER HANG OUT TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?
WHY WOULDN'T THEY?
WELL, THEY PROBABLY GET SICK OF EACH OTHER, WORKING IN THE SAME BUILDING ALL YEAR LONG, RIGHT?
WHY HANG OUT WITH SOMEBODY YOU'RE SICK OF?
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.
HARDY HAR HAR!
9/13
Peirce

MS. CLARKE, DO TEACHERS EVER HANG OUT TOGETHER AWAY FROM SCHOOL?
SURE! I DO, ANY-WAY!
REALLY? WITH WHO?
MRS. GODFREY, MOSTLY. SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND.
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
TURNS OUT SHE WAS SERIOUS.
© 2007 by NEA, Inc.
peirce

MS. CLARKE JUST TOLD ME SHE AND MRS. GODFREY ARE BEST FRIENDS!
OH, YEAH. THEY'RE REAL CLOSE.
I SAW THEM RIDING LAST WEEK AT THE STABLES WHERE I TAKE LESSONS.
WAIT, WAIT. MRS. GODFREY RODE A HORSE?
9/15
IS THE HORSE OKAY?
APPARENTLY IT'S A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO SHOW CONCERN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE.
PRINCIPAL
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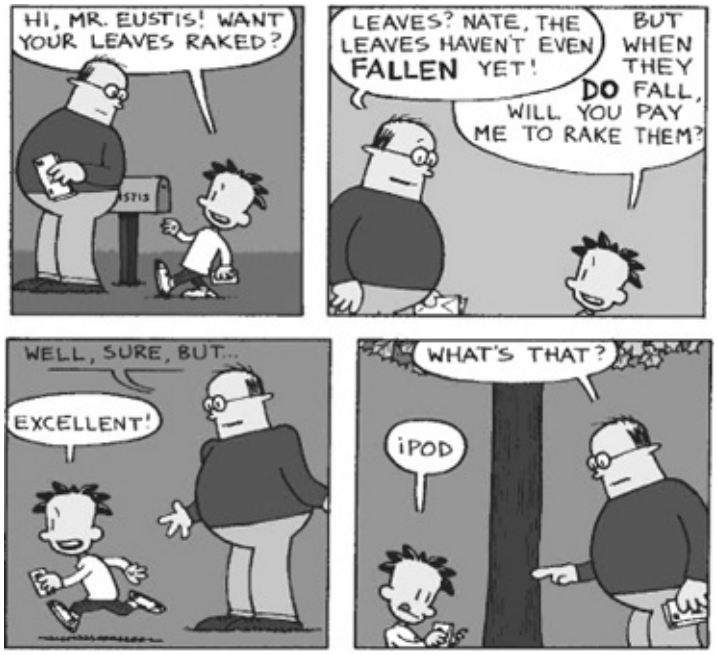
HI, MR. EUSTIS! WANT YOUR LEAVES RAKED?
LEAVES? NATE, THE LEAVES HAVEN'T EVEN FALLEN YET!
BUT WHEN THEY DO FALL, WILL YOU PAY ME TO RAKE THEM?
WELL, SURE, BUT...
EXCELLENT!
WHAT'S THAT?
iPOD

→

big NATE

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LINE UP FOR WIND SPRINTS, SOLDIERS!
CLAP CLAP
UH... COACH JOHN?
I'M THE GOALIE, AND... UH... WELL, A GOALIE PRETTY MUCH STANDS AROUND MOST OF THE GAME...
9/19
I MEAN, THERE'S REALLY NO REASON FOR ME TO DO WIND SPRINTS, BECAUSE... UH... WELL, AS I SAID...
LIFT UP THOSE KNEES, NANCIES!
NICE TRY.
SHUT UP.
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AWRIGHT, I'M NOT DEAF, CAMPERS! I CAN HEAR YOU WHINING!
"WHY IS COACH JOHN MAKING US WORK SO HARD?" WELL, I'LL TELL YOU WHY I MAKE YOU WORK SO HARD!...
9/21
COACH JOHN?... I FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY...
YEAH, YEAH. HANG ON, KID.
...BECAUSE I CARE!
FLUMP!!
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Peirce

HANG IN THERE, GUYS! I KNOW COACH JOHN IS A BIT OF A TASK-MASTER, BUT HAVING HIM HELP OUT WILL PAY BIG DIVIDENDS!
COACH
GASP!
WHEW!
DID I EVER TELL YOU HE WAS MY COACH BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL? HE WAS HIRED RIGHT BE-FORE MY SENIOR YEAR, AND WHAT A YEAR THAT WAS!
INSTEAD OF LOSING ALL TEN OF OUR GAMES, WE ONLY LOST NINE!
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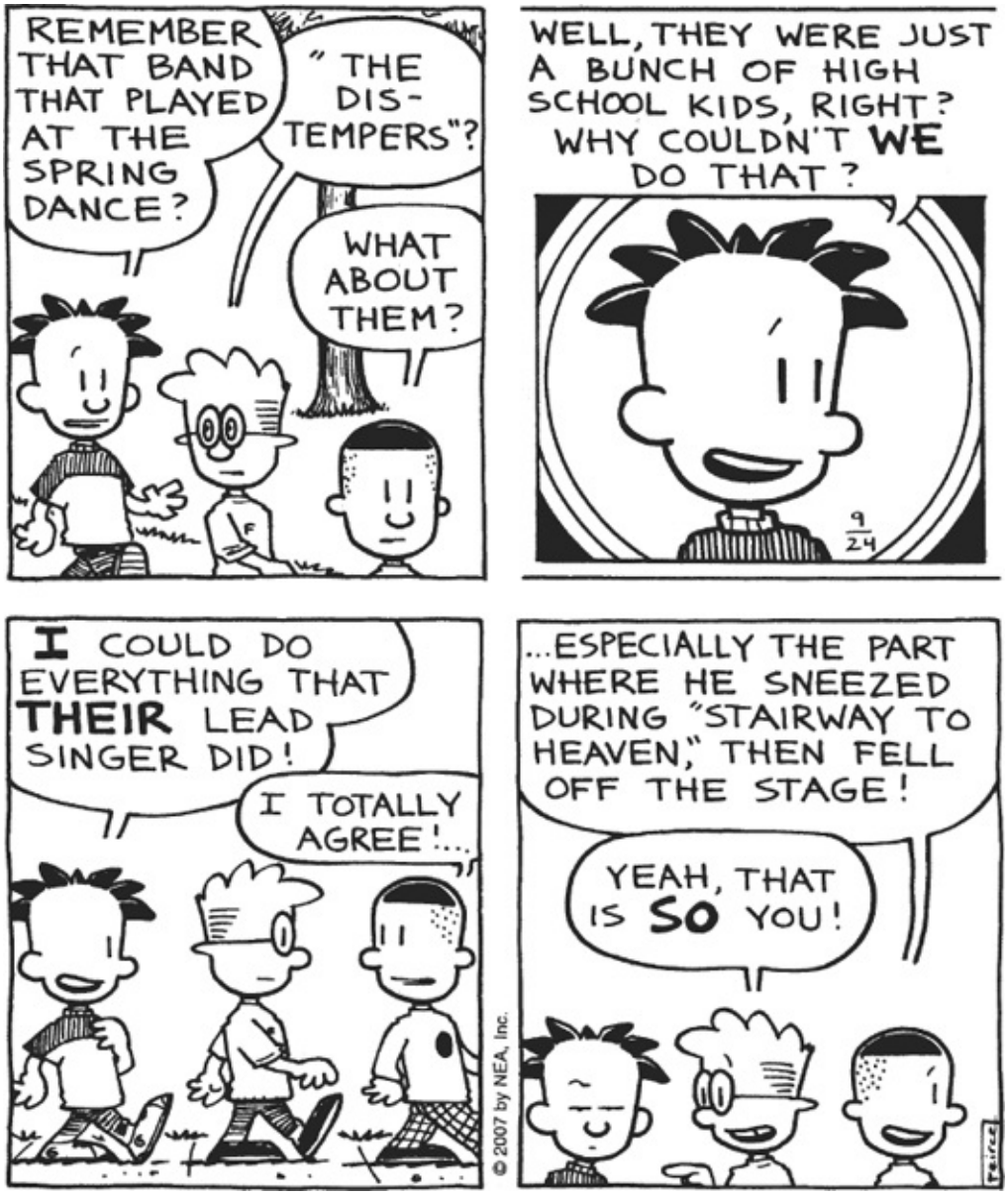
THAT'S LAME-TASTIC!
OUR WIN WAS A FORFEIT, BUT WE FELT GOOD ABOUT OUR-SELVES!
9/22
Peirce

I'LL COVER!
AND I'LL RUSH!
WHAT'S THE RUSH COUNT? FIVE MISSISSIPPI?
WHATEVER. DOESN'T MATTER.
DOESN'T MATTER?
RUSH WHENEVER YOU WANT.
THREE MISSISSIPPI, THEN!
SURE.
TWO MISSISSIPPI!
OKAY.
HIKE!

→

ONE MISSISSIPPI...
...TWO MISSISSIPPI!
FSSST!
GAH!
FLING!
MY MOM WAS THROWING OUT SOME PERFUME!
OOH! WHO SMELLS DREAMY?

big NATE


REMEMBER THAT BAND THAT PLAYED AT THE SPRING DANCE?
" THE DIS-TEMPERS"?
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
WELL, THEY WERE JUST A BUNCH OF HIGH SCHOOL KIDS, RIGHT? WHY COULDN'T WE DO THAT?
9/24
I COULD DO EVERYTHING THAT THEIR LEAD SINGER DID!
I TOTALLY AGREE!...
...ESPECIALLY THE PART WHERE HE SNEEZED DURING "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN," THEN FELL OFF THE STAGE!
YEAH, THAT IS SO YOU!
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I'M SERIOUS, GUYS! WE SHOULD START A BAND!
WAIT, DIDN'T YOU SUGGEST THIS LAST YEAR?
THAT WAS JUST A VOCAL GROUP! I'M TALKING ABOUT A REAL ROCK 'N' ROLL BAND! WITH REAL INSTRUMENTS!
INSTRUMENTS?
9/25
YOU PLAY THE TROMBONE, I PLAY THE VIOLIN, AND TEDDY PLAYS THE OBOE!
THAT'S CALLED "ALT-ROCK"!
IF IT'LL HELP, I CAN BORROW MY DAD'S ACCORDION!
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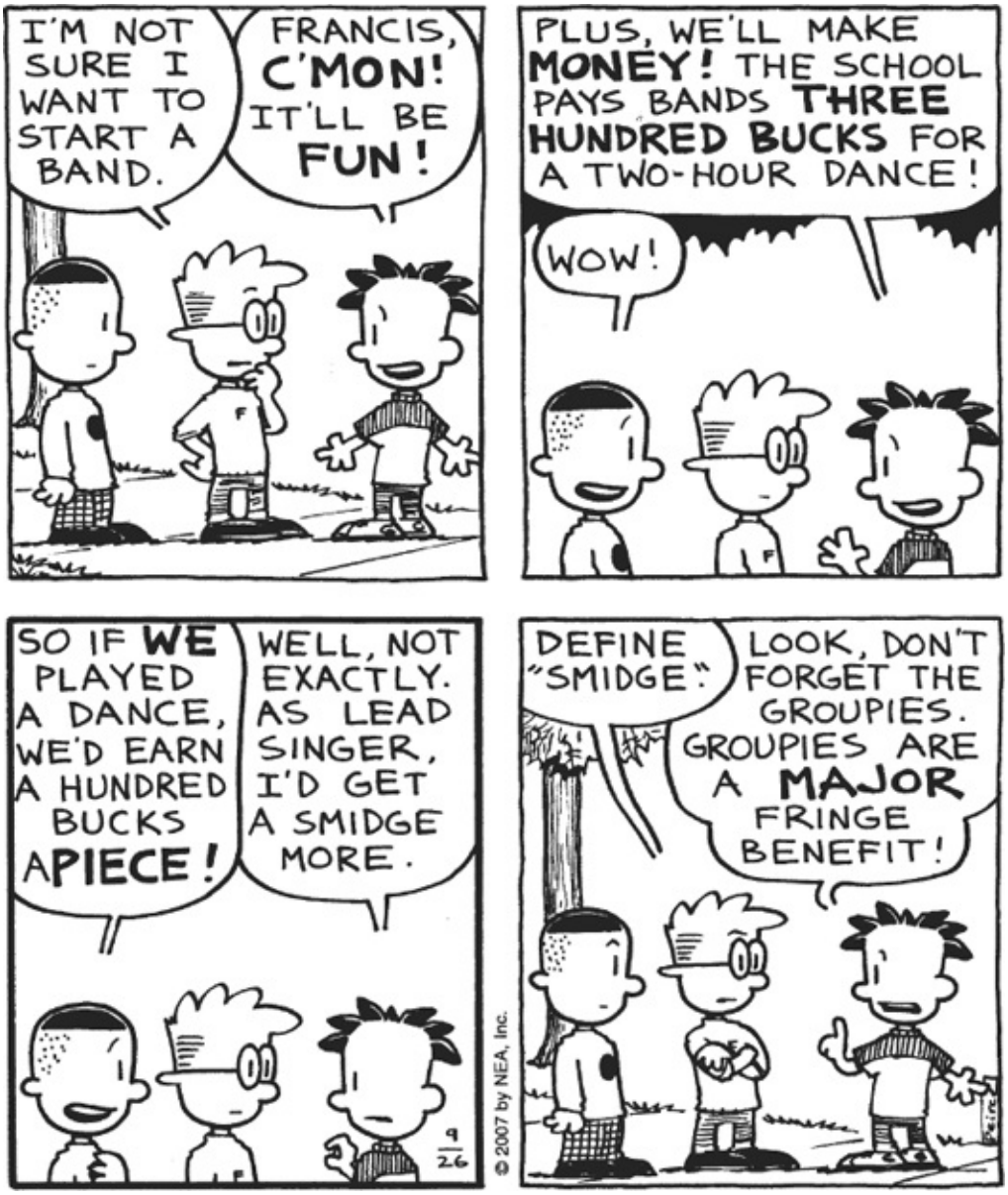
I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO START A BAND.
FRANCIS, C'MON! IT'LL BE FUN!
PLUS, WE'LL MAKE MONEY! THE SCHOOL PAYS BANDS THREE HUNDRED BUCKS FOR A TWO-HOUR DANCE!
WOW!
SO IF WE PLAYED A DANCE, WE'D EARN A HUNDRED BUCKS APIECE!
WELL, NOT EXACTLY. AS LEAD SINGER, I'D GET A SMIDGE MORE.
DEFINE "SMIDGE."
LOOK, DON'T FORGET THE GROUPIES. GROUPIES ARE A MAJOR FRINGE BENEFIT!
9/26
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SAY WE DO DECIDE TO START A BAND. HOW DO WE DO IT?
WE JUST... DO IT!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SAY "WE'RE A BAND" AND WE'RE A BAND!
OKAY! WE'RE A BAND!
NOW WHAT?
THIS IS BORING.
PATIENCE, MEN. I'LL WHIP UP A PRESS RELEASE.
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NOW THAT WE'RE A BAND, WHAT SHOULD WE DO FIRST?
LET'S THINK UP A NAME!
HOLD ON, LADS.
AS LEAD SINGER, I GET TO THINK UP A NAME FOR OUR BAND, AND I'VE ALREADY COME UP WITH A GREAT ONE!
ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK!
"ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK"?
HOW COME YOU GET TO BE THE LEAD SINGER?
I'VE GOT THE BEST HAIR.
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"ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK"? THAT'S THE NAME OF OUR BAND?
A GOOD NAME IS THE FIRST STEP TO STARDOM, TEDDY!
...AND THE SECOND STEP IS TO START PLAYING GIGS! THE MORE GIGS WE PLAY, THE MORE FAMOUS WE'LL GET!
9/29
GIGS?
GIGS!
JUST SAYING THE WORD "GIGS" MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A WORLD-CLASS CHEESE BALL.
CAN WE GO BACK TO THE PART WHERE YOU CALLED "ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK" A GOOD NAME?
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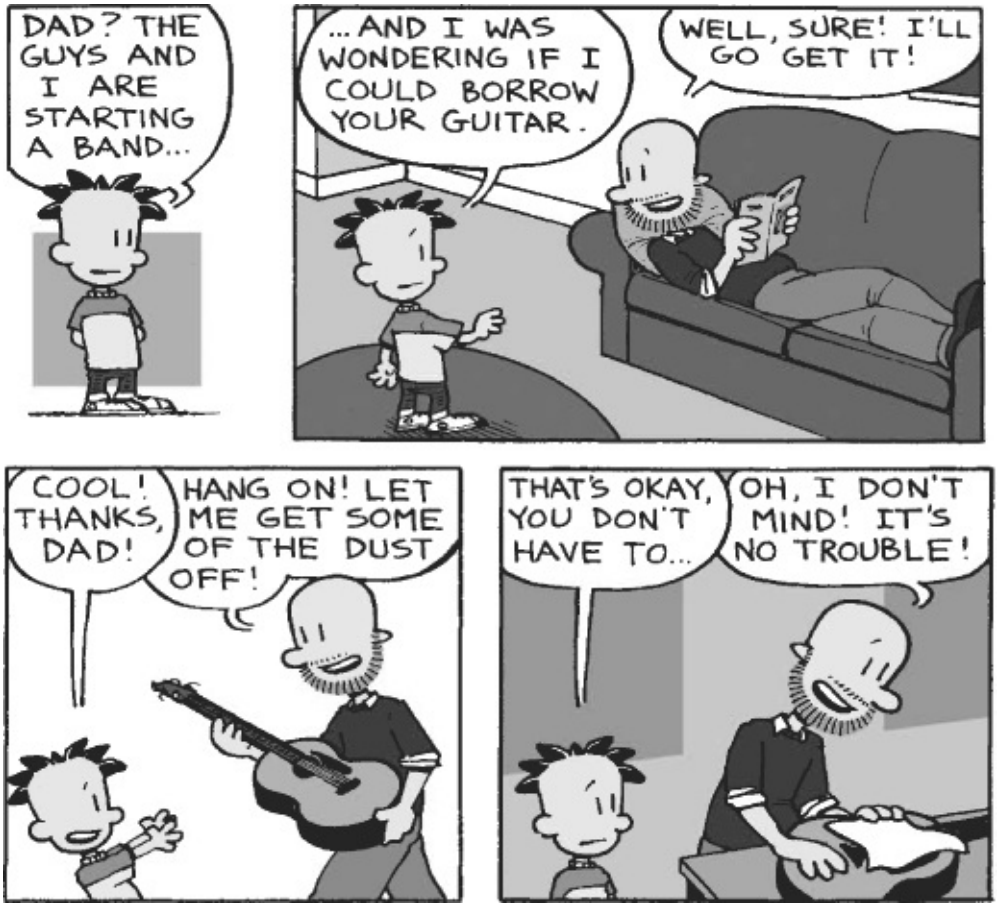
Pearce


DAD? THE GUYS AND I ARE STARTING A BAND...
...AND I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BORROW YOUR GUITAR.
WELL, SURE! I'LL GO GET IT!
COOL! THANKS, DAD!
HANG ON! LET ME GET SOME OF THE DUST OFF!
THAT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
OH, I DON'T MIND! IT'S NO TROUBLE!

→

UH...GREAT. NOW CAN I...?
JUST A SEC. IT NEEDS TUNING!
I'LL DO THAT LATER! I'LL JUST...
NONSENSE! I CAN'T GIVE YOU A GUITAR THAT'S OUT OF TUNE!
BUT THE GUYS ARE WAITING FOR ME, AND...
E...A... D...G... HMM HMM...
PLINK
PLONK
TWO HOURS LATER...
HOW MANY ROADS MUST A MAN WALK DOWNN...?
CRIPES.
pairce

big NATE

PRETTY COOL, EH GUYS? MY DAD SAID WE COULD USE THE GARAGE FOR BAND PRACTICE!
SOON THE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE FILLED WITH THE SOUNDS OF "ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK" PLAYING HEAD-BANGING, EARTH-SHATTERING ROCK!
WHO BROUGHT SOME MUSIC?
I DID! TWO SONGS!
MY "HOT CROSS BUNS" IS PRETTY GOOD, BUT MY "BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP" NEEDS A LITTLE WORK.
THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.
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I BORROWED MY UNCLE'S GUITAR, AND HE SHOWED ME A FEW "POWER CHORDS"!
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I QUIT PIANO LESSONS, BUT I CAN STILL PLAY HALF-DECENT KEYBOARDS!
... AND I'M THE MAN ON THE MICROPHONE! THIS IS AWESOME, YOU GUYS! WE'RE A REAL LIVE BAND!
FOR THOSE ABOUT TO ROCK!.... WE SALUUUUTE YOUUU!
2/10
PERHAPS WE CAN SPECIALIZE IN INSTRU-MENTALS.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT.
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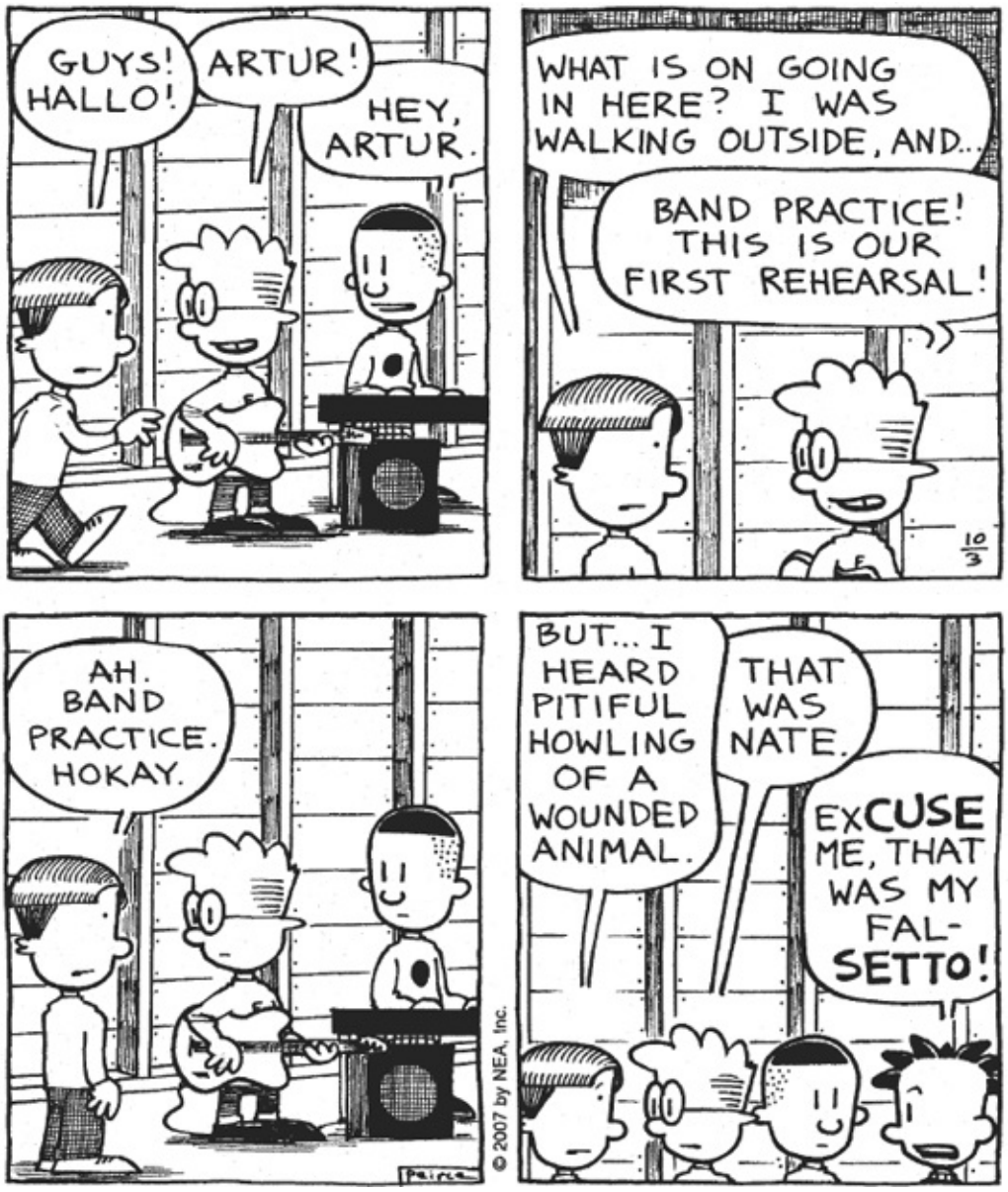
GUYS! HALLO!
ARTUR!
HEY, ARTUR.
WHAT IS ON GOING IN HERE? I WAS WALKING OUTSIDE, AND...
BAND PRACTICE! THIS IS OUR FIRST REHEARSAL!
10/3
AH. BAND PRACTICE. HOKAY.
BUT... I HEARD PITIFUL HOWLING OF A WOUNDED ANIMAL.
THAT WAS NATE.
EXCUSE ME, THAT WAS MY FAL-SETTO!
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Peirce

SO! I WAS NOT KNOW YOU FELLOWS ARE A BAND!
"ENSLAVE THE MOLLUSK," ARTUR! WE'RE GOING TO BE FAMOUS!
WE'RE TRYING TO LEARN "I FOUGHT THE LAW."
AH! YES, THAT IS GOOD SONG!
10/4
BREAKIN' ROCKS IN THE HOT SUN... I FOUGHT THE LAW AND THE LAW WON...
YOU'RE GOOD!
YOU'RE FIRED.
WHAT?
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Peirce

WHOA, WHOA! YOU WANT ARTUR TO BE LEAD SINGER INSTEAD OF ME?
NATE, ARTUR CAN REALLY SING! HE'LL MAKE US A BETTER BAND!
BUT THE WHOLE BAND THING WAS MY IDEA!
LISTEN, IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE KICKING YOU OUT! YOU CAN STILL BE IN THE BAND!
HERE!
GREAT.
HEY! MR. TAMBOURINE MAN!
CHINKA CHINKA CHINKA CHINKA CHINKA
10/5
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Peirce

SO LONGER, NATE. SEE YOU AT NEXT REHEARSAL.
BYE, ARTUR.
YOU ARE NOT UPSET THAT I AM NOW LEAD SINGER INSTEAD OF YOU?
NO, NO, YOU'RE BETTER. YOU DESERVE IT.
WE ARE STILL PALS, THEN!
STILL PALS.
10/6
OH, HOW I HATE HIM.
Peirce
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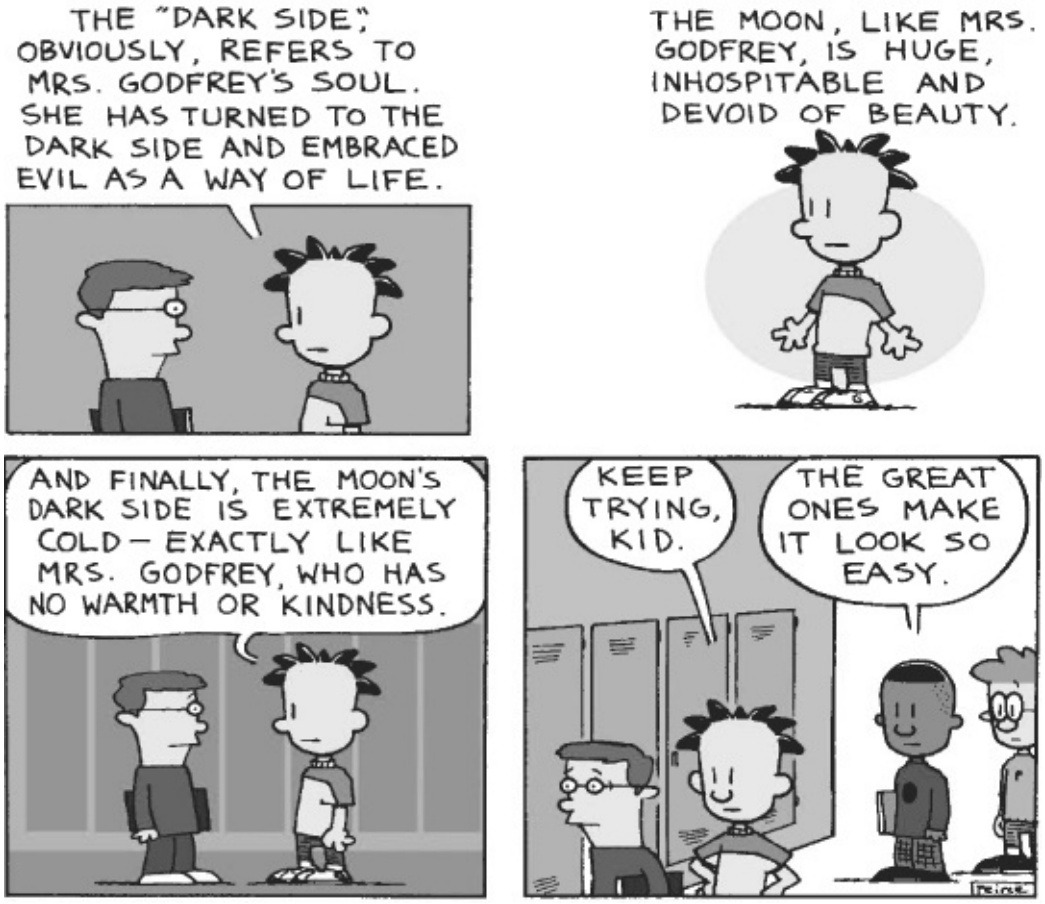
YOU'RE THE NICKNAME CZAR, RIGHT? I HAVE A NEW NICKNAME FOR MRS. GODFREY!
LET'S HEAR IT.
"CRUELLA"! 'CAUSE, YOU KNOW, SHE'S SO MEAN!
HM. NOPE. SORRY, GUY.
THAT'S TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD! A GOOD NICKNAME WORKS ON MANY LEVELS!
TAKE ONE OF MY FAVORITE NAMES FOR MRS. GODFREY: "DARK SIDE OF THE MOON"!

→


THE "DARK SIDE", OBVIOUSLY, REFERS TO MRS. GODFREY'S SOUL. SHE HAS TURNED TO THE DARK SIDE AND EMBRACED EVIL AS A WAY OF LIFE.
THE MOON, LIKE MRS. GODFREY, IS HUGE, INHOSPITABLE AND DEVOID OF BEAUTY.
AND FINALLY, THE MOON'S DARK SIDE IS EXTREMELY COLD — EXACTLY LIKE MRS. GODFREY, WHO HAS NO WARMTH OR KINDNESS.
KEEP TRYING, KID.
THE GREAT ONES MAKE IT LOOK SO EASY.

big NATE

RRRINNNG!
C'MON, THERE'S THE SECOND BELL! WE'VE GOTTA GET TO HOMEROOM!
ONE MORE SHOT! PASS!
DUDE, WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.
JUST ONE MORE SHOT, TEDDY! GIMME THE BALL!
10/8
WONK!
GOOD TIMING!
THITH ITH TOTAWY YO FAULT.
REMEMBER!
TODAY IS SCHOOL PICTURE DAY!
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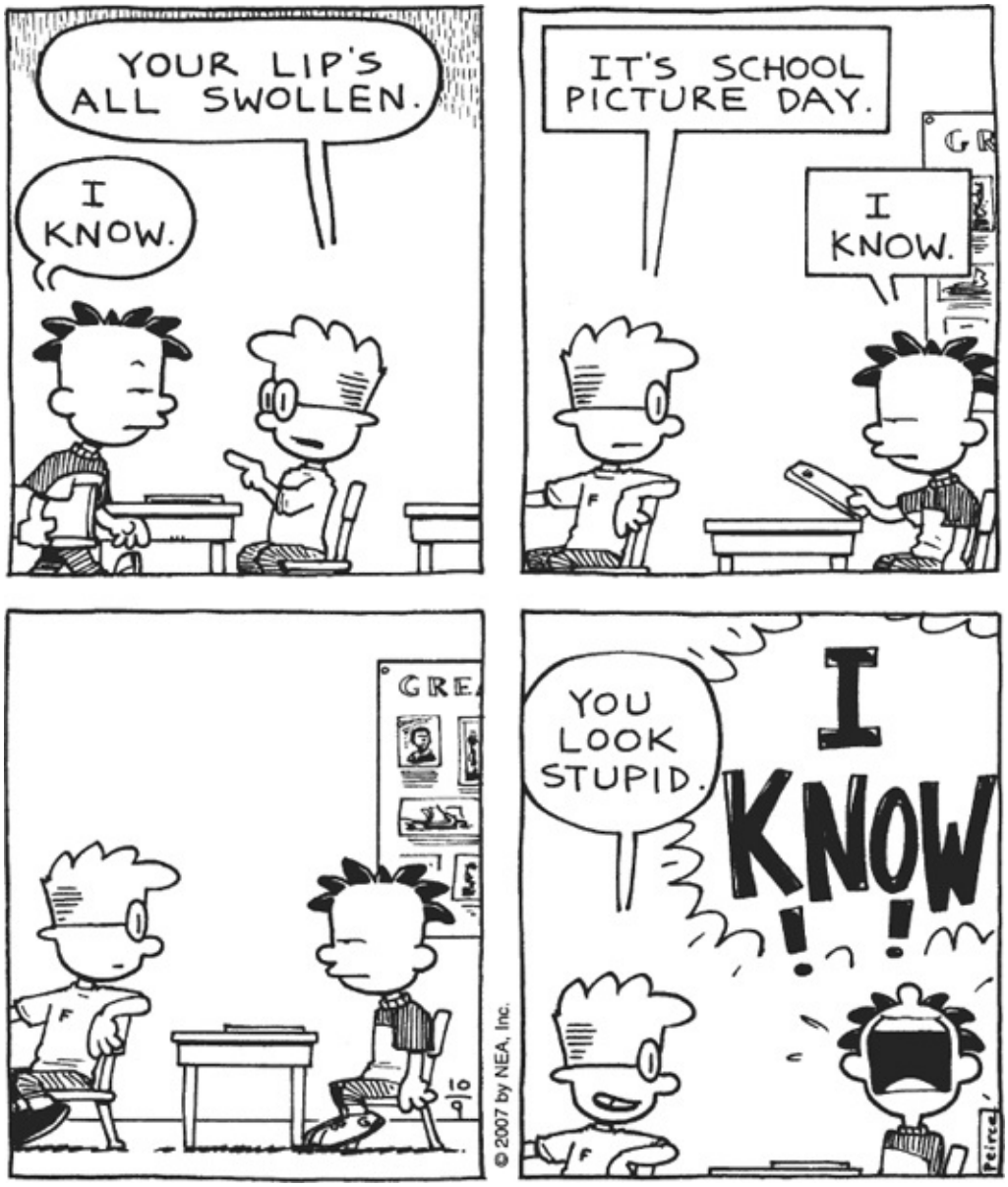
YOUR LIP'S ALL SWOLLEN.
I KNOW.
IT'S SCHOOL PICTURE DAY.
I KNOW.
YOU LOOK STUPID.
I KNOW!!!
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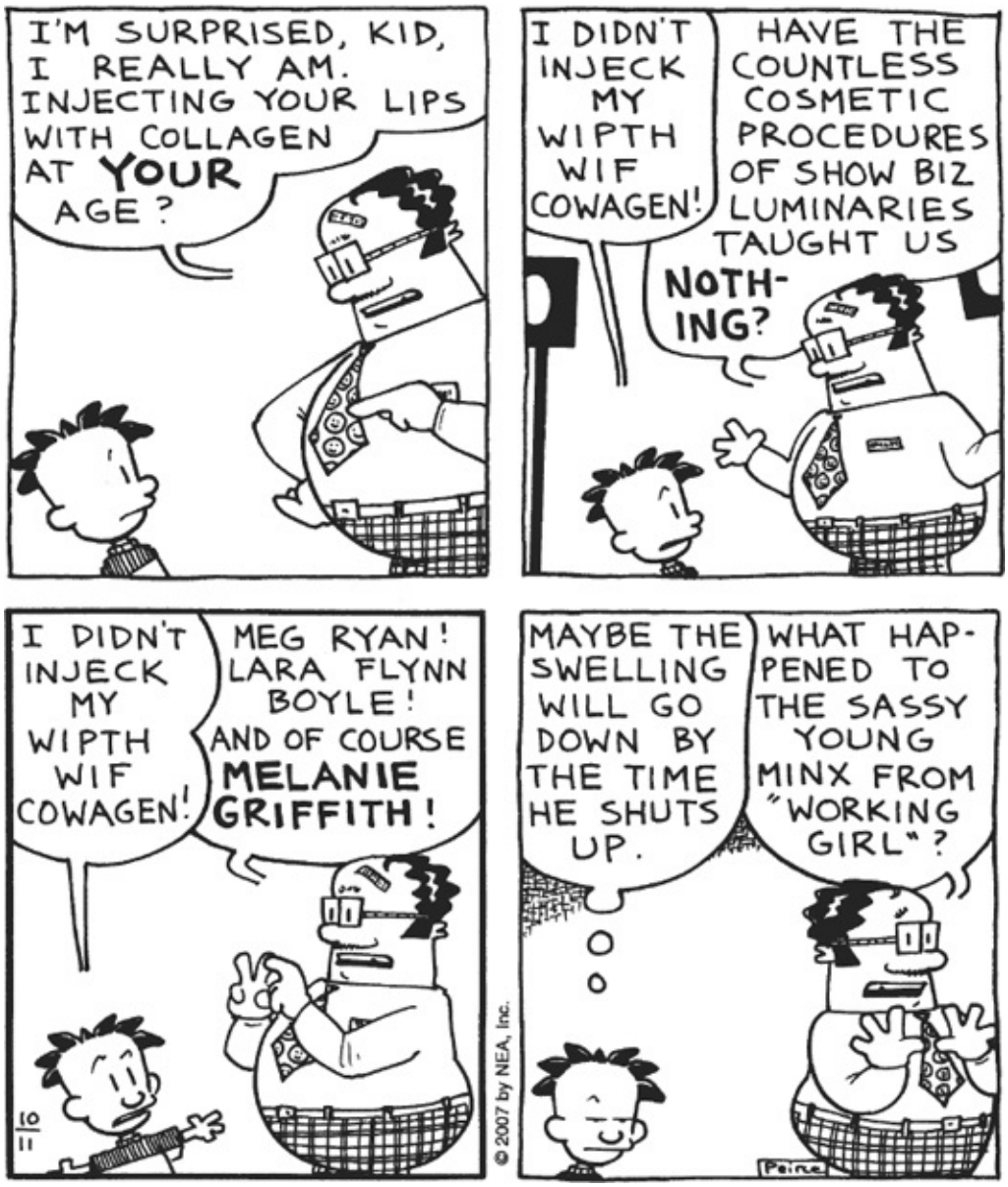
I'M SURPRISED, KID, I REALLY AM. INJECTING YOUR LIPS WITH COLLAGEN AT YOUR AGE?
I DIDN'T INJECK MY WIPTH WIF COWAGEN!
HAVE THE COUNTLESS COSMETIC PROCEDURES OF SHOW BIZ LUMINARIES TAUGHT US NOTH-ING?
I DIDN'T INJECK MY WIPTH WIF COWAGEN!
MEG RYAN! LARA FLYNN BOYLE! AND OF COURSE MELANIE GRIFFITH!
10/11
MAYBE THE SWELLING WILL GO DOWN BY THE TIME HE SHUTS UP.
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THE SASSY YOUNG MINX FROM "WORKING GIRL"?
Paine
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KID, I KNOW YOU'RE A TAD BUMMED THAT YOU DON'T LOOK YOUR BEST ON SCHOOL PICTURE DAY... BUT THIS, TOO, SHALL PASS, MY FRIEND!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PHOTO FROM YEARS PAST! WHO COULD THIS AWKWARD YOUNG MAN BE? WHO WOULD THIS SAD LITTLE BUTTERBALL WITH THE FRIZZY HAIR GROW UP TO BECOME?
THAT'TH YOU, DUDE.
NO! BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT'S ME!
WAIT... WHAT?
THITH ITHN'T HELPING.
10/12
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Peirce

KID, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT LIP A LITTLE LESS NOTICEABLE WITH SOME CREATIVE LIGHTING!
HOP UP ON THAT STOOL, AND I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN...
10/13
Peirce
OOPS!
BUMP!
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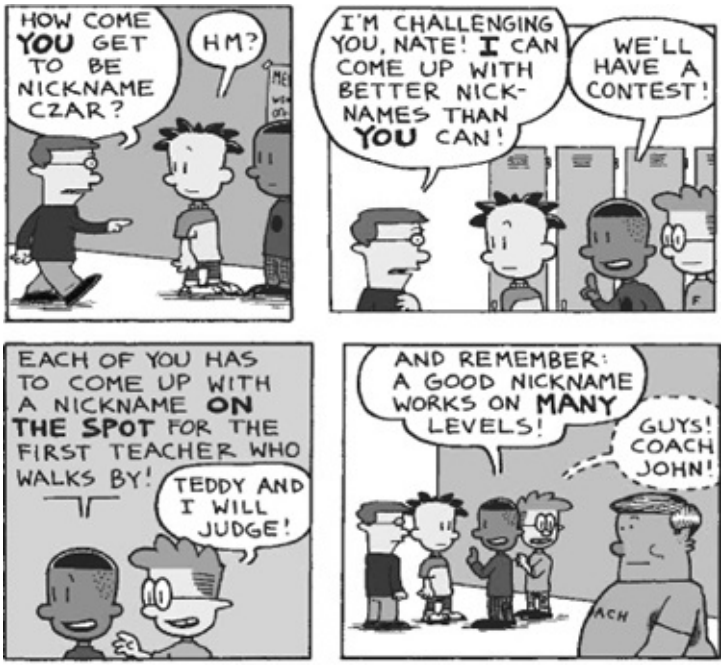
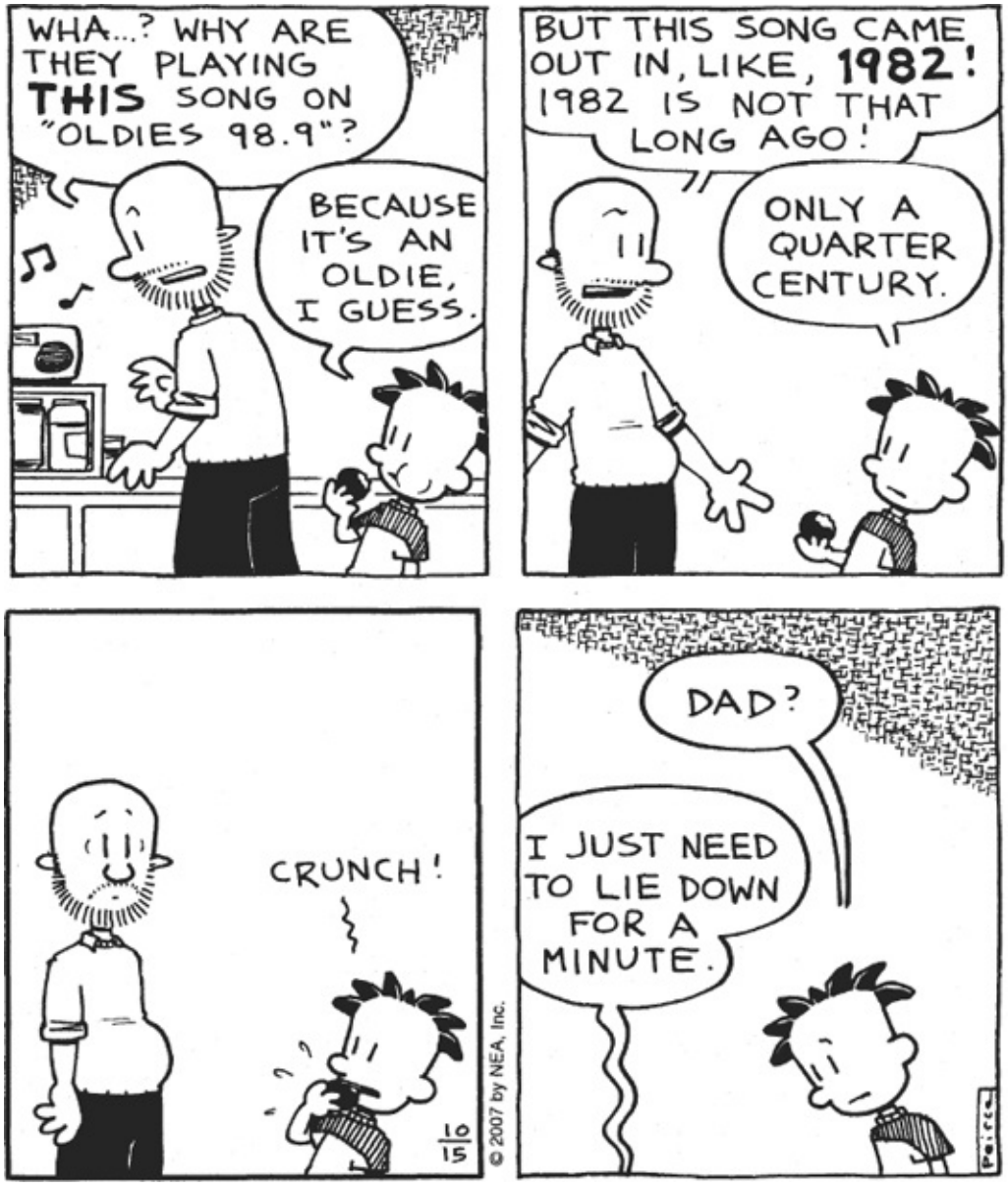

HOW COME YOU GET TO BE NICKNAME CZAR?
HM?
I'M CHALLENGING YOU, NATE! I CAN COME UP WITH BETTER NICK-NAMES THAN YOU CAN!
WE'LL HAVE A CONTEST!
EACH OF YOU HAS TO COME UP WITH A NICKNAME ON THE SPOT FOR THE FIRST TEACHER WHO WALKS BY!
TEDDY AND I WILL JUDGE!
AND REMEMBER: A GOOD NICKNAME WORKS ON MANY LEVELS!
GUYS! COACH JOHN!

→

UMM... LET'S SEE HERE...
"FAST BREAK."
"FAST BREAK" IS A BASKETBALL TERM, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY APPROPRIATE FOR COACH JOHN.
...BUT THE WORD "FAST" IS IRONIC, BECAUSE COACH JOHN IS SO SLOW.
ALSO, "FAST BREAK" IS A PLAY ON WORDS. WHEN YOU BREAK A FAST, YOU EAT. CLEARLY, COACH JOHN HAS BROKEN A FEW FASTS IN HIS DAY.
I KNOW WHEN I'M BEATEN.
LONG LIVE THE CZAR!

big NATE


WHA...? WHY ARE THEY PLAYING THIS SONG ON "OLDIES 98.9"?
BECAUSE IT'S AN OLDIE, I GUESS.
BUT THIS SONG CAME OUT IN, LIKE, 1982! 1982 IS NOT THAT LONG AGO!
ONLY A QUARTER CENTURY.
CRUNCH!
10/15
DAD?
I JUST NEED TO LIE DOWN FOR A MINUTE.
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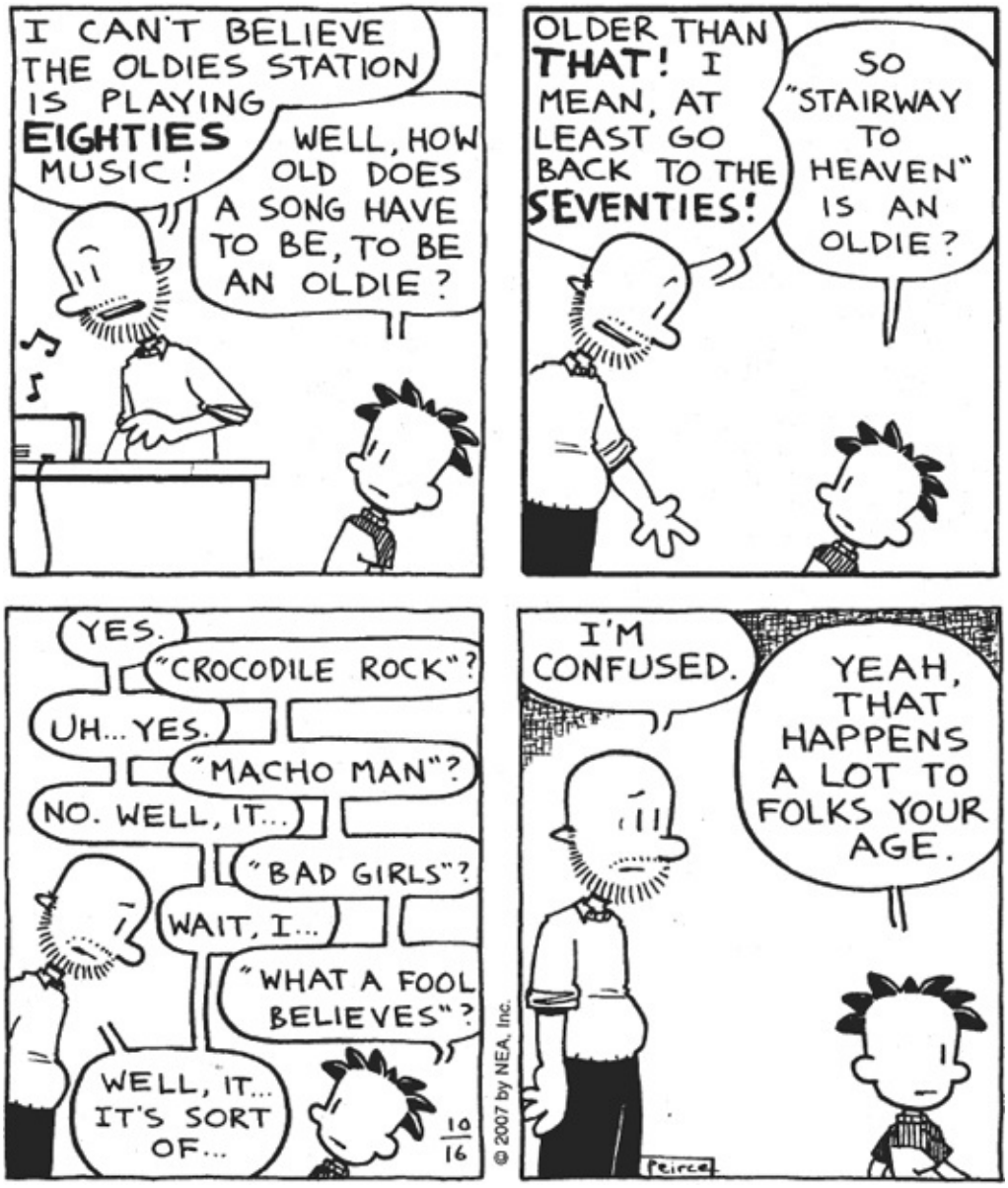
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE OLDIES STATION IS PLAYING EIGHTIES MUSIC!
WELL, HOW OLD DOES A SONG HAVE TO BE, TO BE AN OLDIE?
OLDER THAN THAT! I MEAN, AT LEAST GO BACK TO THE SEVENTIES!
SO "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN" IS AN OLDIE?
YES.
"CROCODILE ROCK"?
UH... YES.
"MACHO MAN"?
NO. WELL, IT...
"BAD GIRLS"?
WAIT, I...
"WHAT A FOOL BELIEVES"?
WELL, IT... IT'S SORT OF...
10/16
I'M CONFUSED.
YEAH, THAT HAPPENS A LOT TO FOLKS YOUR AGE.
Peirce
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HELLO, "OLDIES 98.9"? WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS? YOU USED TO PLAY STUFF FROM THE SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES!
NOW YOU'RE PLAYING CYNDI LAUPER SONGS! CYNDI LAUPER IS NOT AN OLDIE!
10/17
UH... NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER LATELY.
THEY'VE GOT A POINT THERE.
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YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M RIDICULOUS, GETTING SO WORKED UP ABOUT WHAT SONGS THEY PLAY ON "OLDIES 98.9."
NOT AT ALL.
IT JUST BUMS ME OUT THAT THEY'RE NO LONGER PLAYING THE STUFF THAT I THINK OF AS OLDIES!
I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND.
10/19
WHEN YOU HURT, I HURT!
DON'T PATRON-IZE ME.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, DAD!
PAT! PAT!
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I'VE SWITCHED RADIO STATIONS! NO MORE OBSESSING OVER WHAT SONGS THEY SHOULD BE PLAYING ON "OLDIES 98.9"!
FROM NOW ON, I'M LISTENING TO "THE HAMMER 103.7"! THEY PLAY ONLY "CLASSIC ROCK"!
WHAT THE...? IS THIS REO SPEEDWAGON? THEY'RE PLAYING REO SPEEDWAGON?!
10/20
REO SPEED-WAGON IS NOT CLASSIC ROCK!!
I'LL BE OUT-SIDE.
Pete
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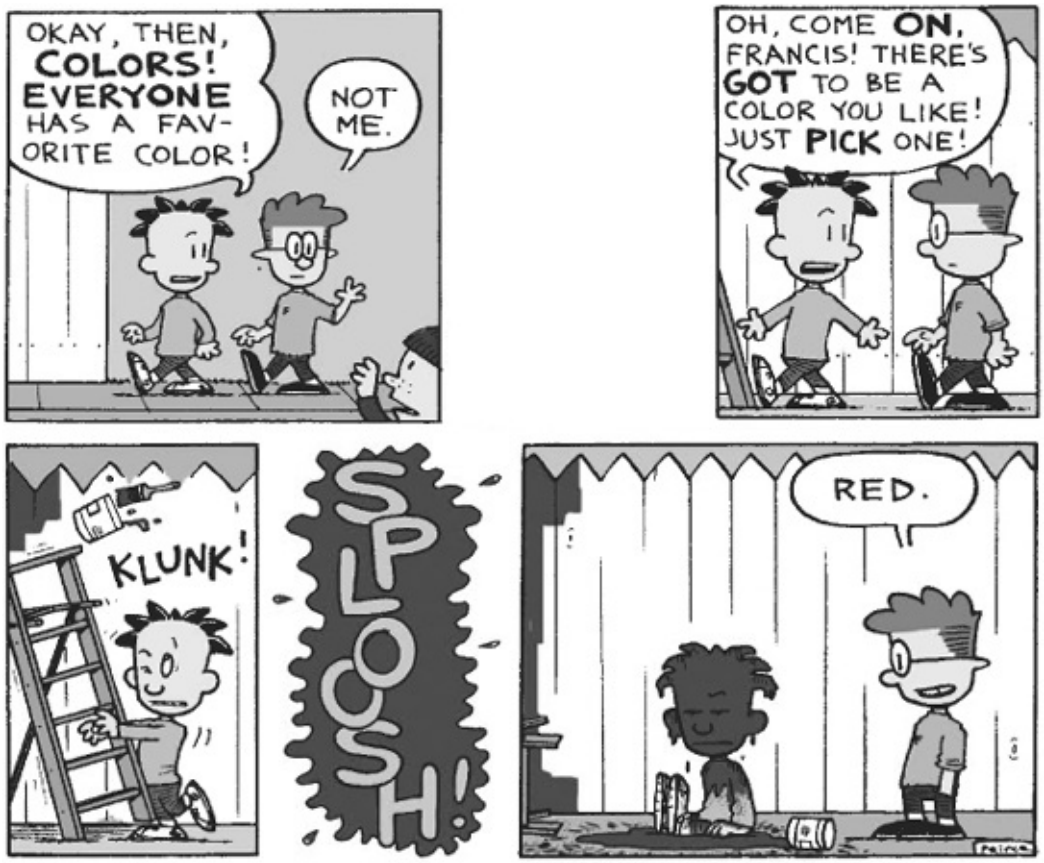
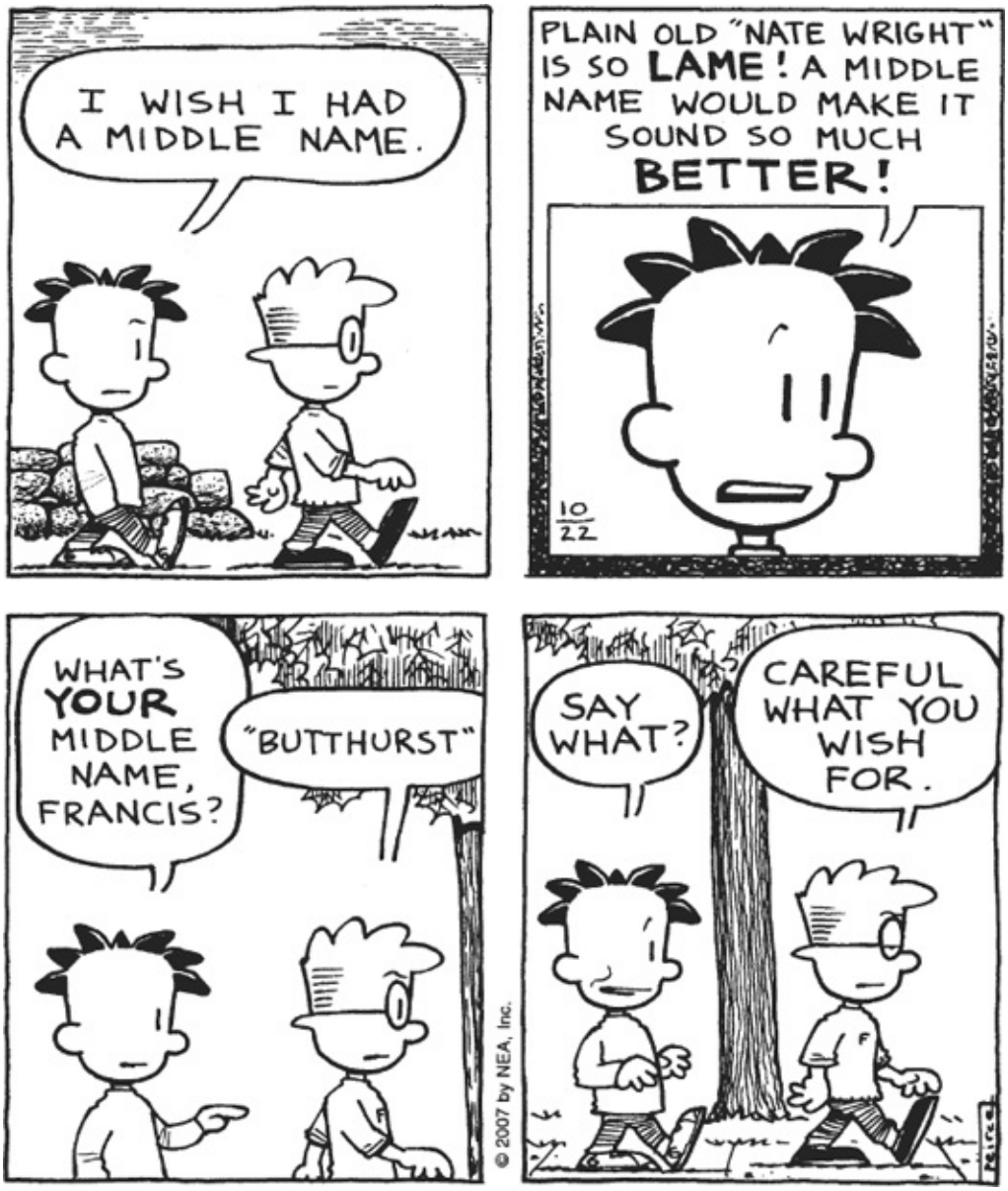
WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?
I DUNNO.
YOU DON'T KNOW?
I HAVEN'T GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT.
WELL, WHAT ABOUT SONGS? WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SONG?
I LIKE LOTS OF SONGS.
BUT WHICH ONE DO YOU LIKE BEST?
I HAVE NO IDEA.

→


OKAY, THEN, COLORS! EVERYONE HAS A FAV-ORITE COLOR!
NOT ME.
OH, COME ON, FRANCIS! THERE'S GOT TO BE A COLOR YOU LIKE! JUST PICK ONE!
KLUNK!
SPLOSH!
RED.

big NATE


I WISH I HAD A MIDDLE NAME.
PLAIN OLD "NATE WRIGHT" IS SO LAME! A MIDDLE NAME WOULD MAKE IT SOUND SO MUCH BETTER!
10/22
WHAT'S YOUR MIDDLE NAME, FRANCIS?
"BUTTHURST"
SAY WHAT?
CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.
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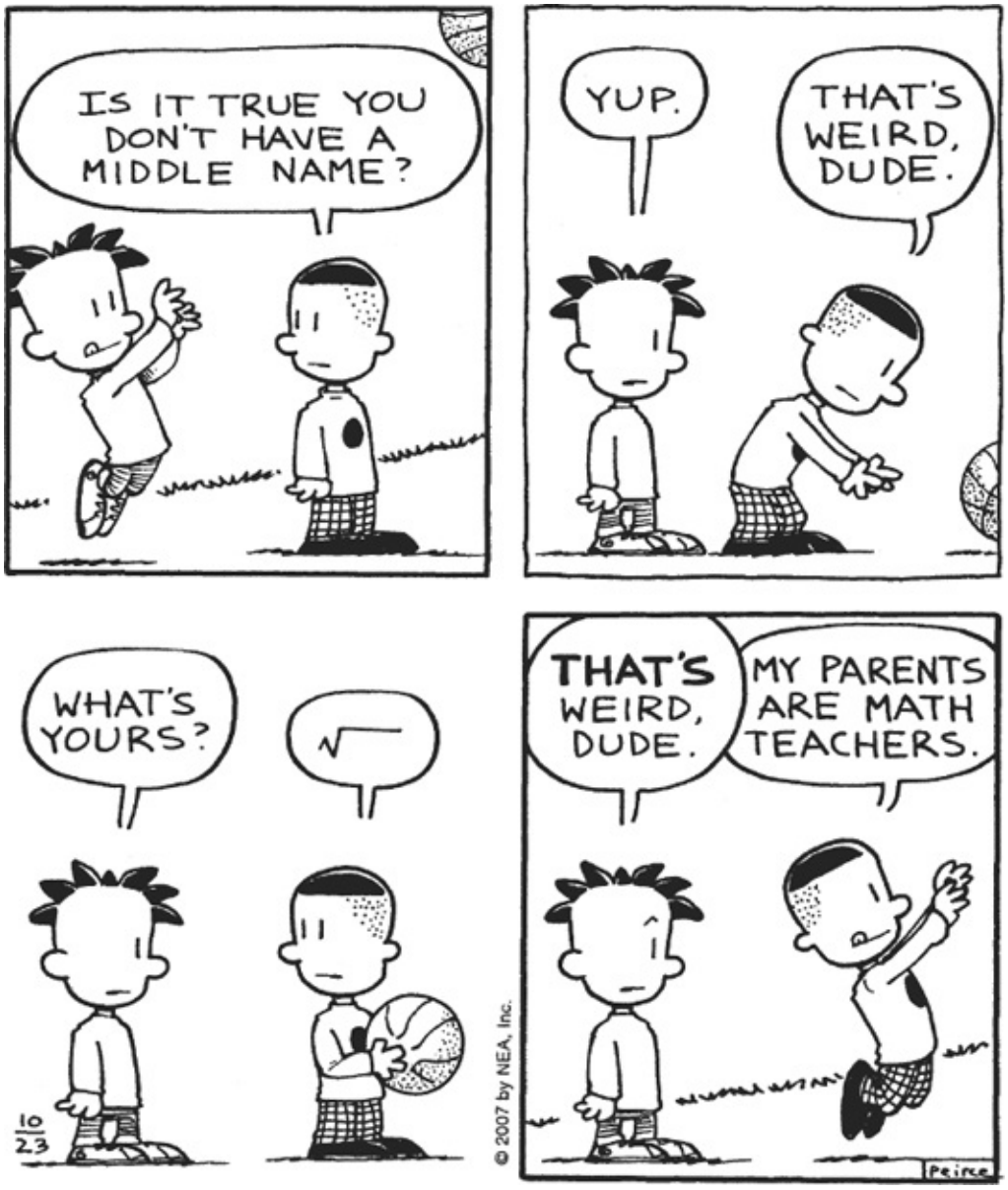
IS IT TRUE YOU DON'T HAVE A MIDDLE NAME?
YUP.
THAT'S WEIRD, DUDE.
WHAT'S YOURS?
√
THAT'S WEIRD, DUDE.
MY PARENTS ARE MATH TEACHERS.
10/23
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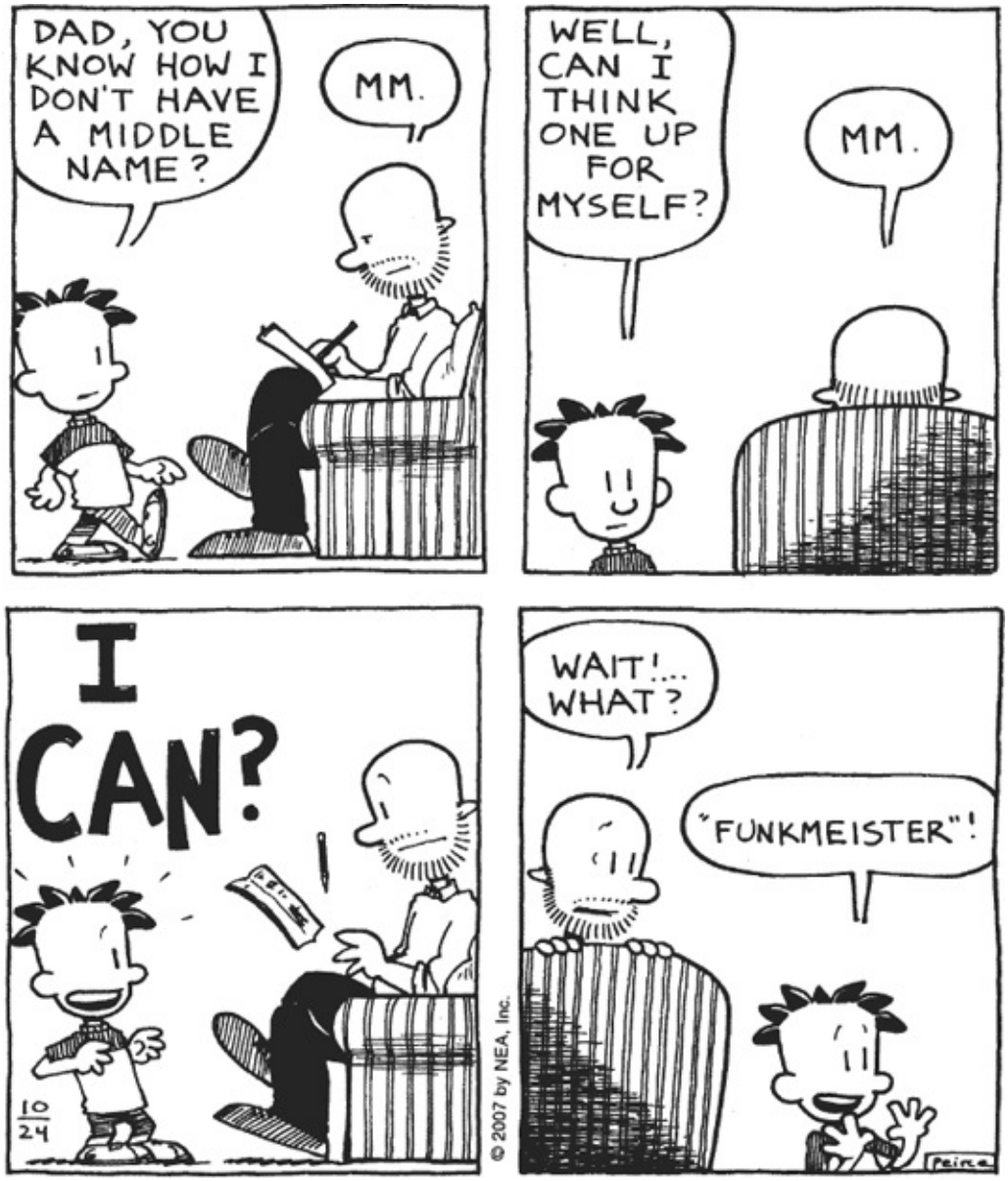
Peirce


DAD, YOU KNOW HOW I DON'T HAVE A MIDDLE NAME?
MM.
WELL, CAN I THINK ONE UP FOR MYSELF?
MM.
I CAN?
10/24
WAIT!... WHAT?
"FUNKMEISTER"!
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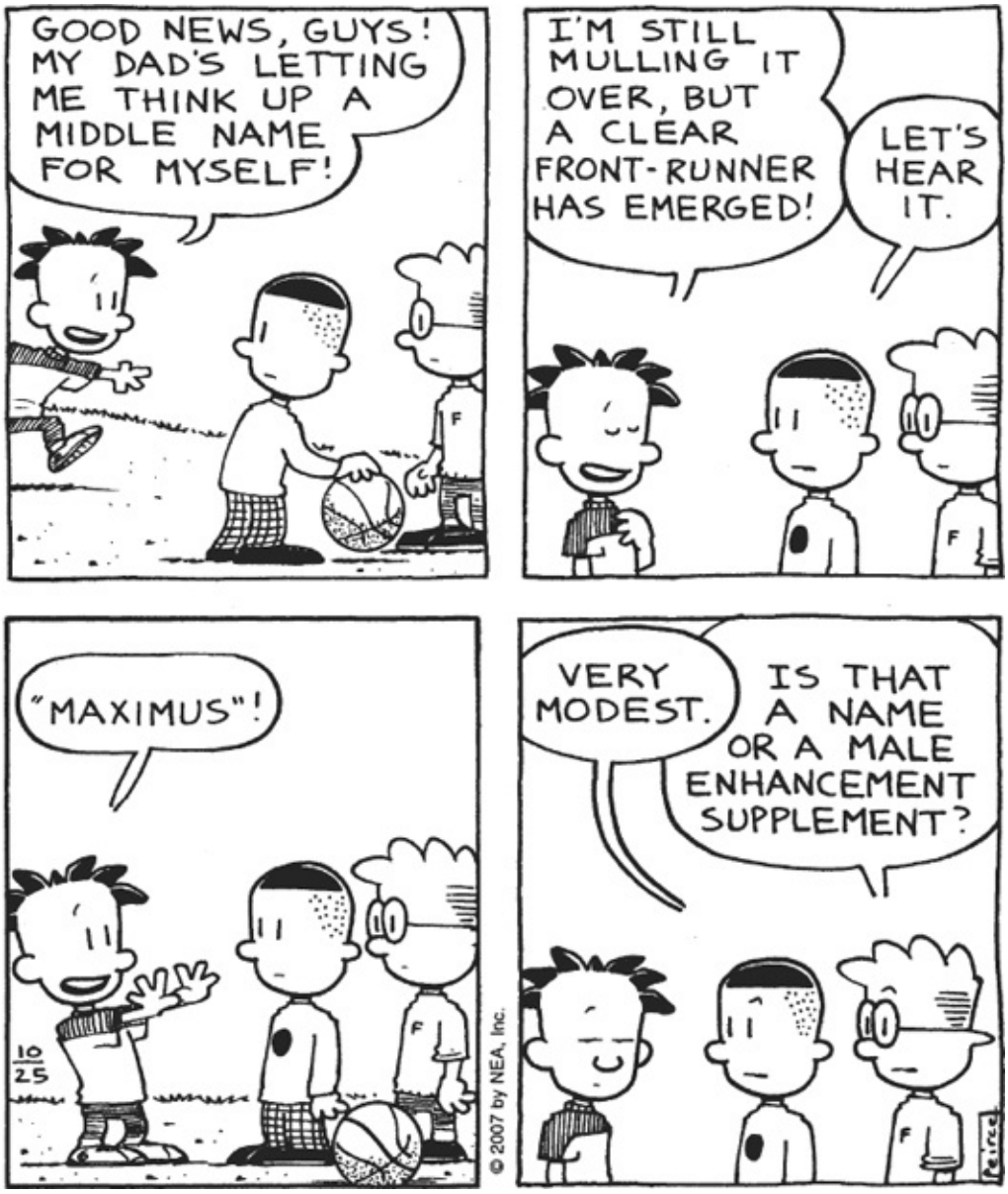
Peirce


GOOD NEWS, GUYS! MY DAD'S LETTING ME THINK UP A MIDDLE NAME FOR MYSELF!
I'M STILL MULLING IT OVER, BUT A CLEAR FRONT-RUNNER HAS EMERGED!
LET'S HEAR IT.
"MAXIMUS"!
10/25
VERY MODEST.
IS THAT A NAME OR A MALE ENHANCEMENT SUPPLEMENT?
Peirce
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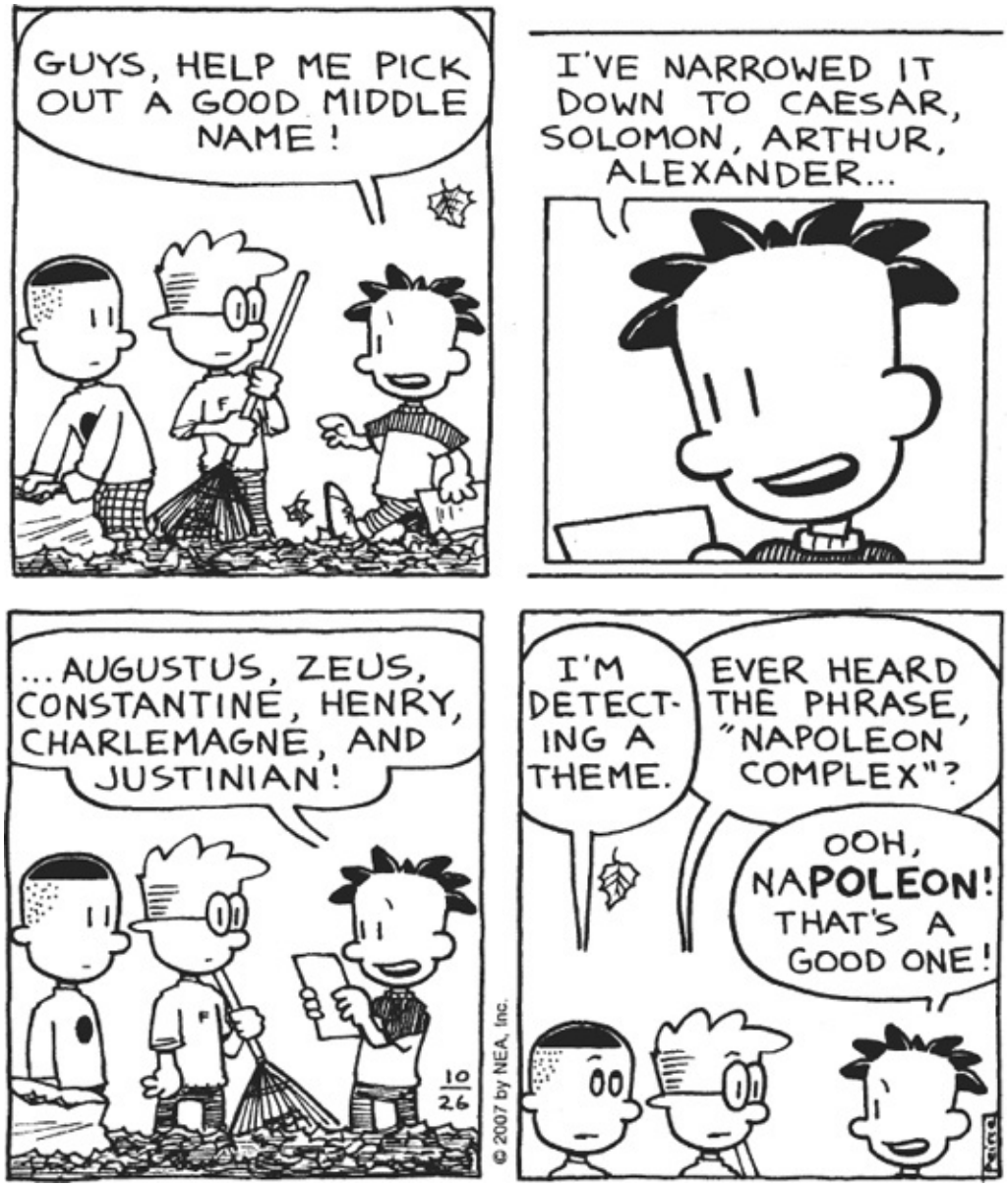
GUYS, HELP ME PICK OUT A GOOD MIDDLE NAME!
I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO CAESAR, SOLOMON, ARTHUR, ALEXANDER...
...AUGUSTUS, ZEUS, CONSTANTINE, HENRY, CHARLEMAGNE, AND JUSTINIAN!
10/26
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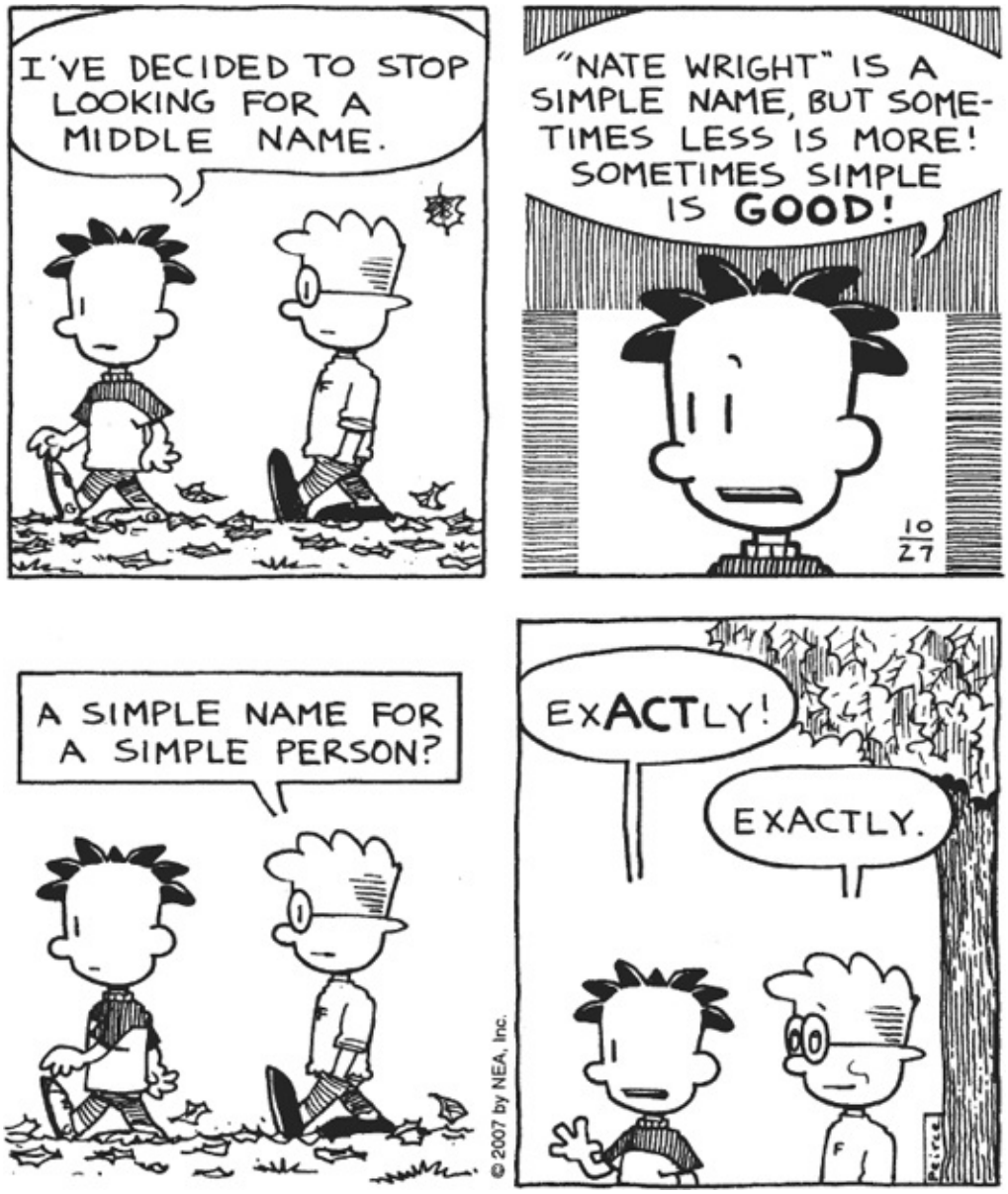
I'M DETECTING A THEME.
EVER HEARD THE PHRASE, "NAPOLEON COMPLEX"?
OOH, NAPOLEON! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!


I'VE DECIDED TO STOP LOOKING FOR A MIDDLE NAME.
"NATE WRIGHT" IS A SIMPLE NAME, BUT SOMETIMES LESS IS MORE! SOMETIMES SIMPLE IS GOOD!
10/27
A SIMPLE NAME FOR A SIMPLE PERSON?
EXACTLY!
EXACTLY.
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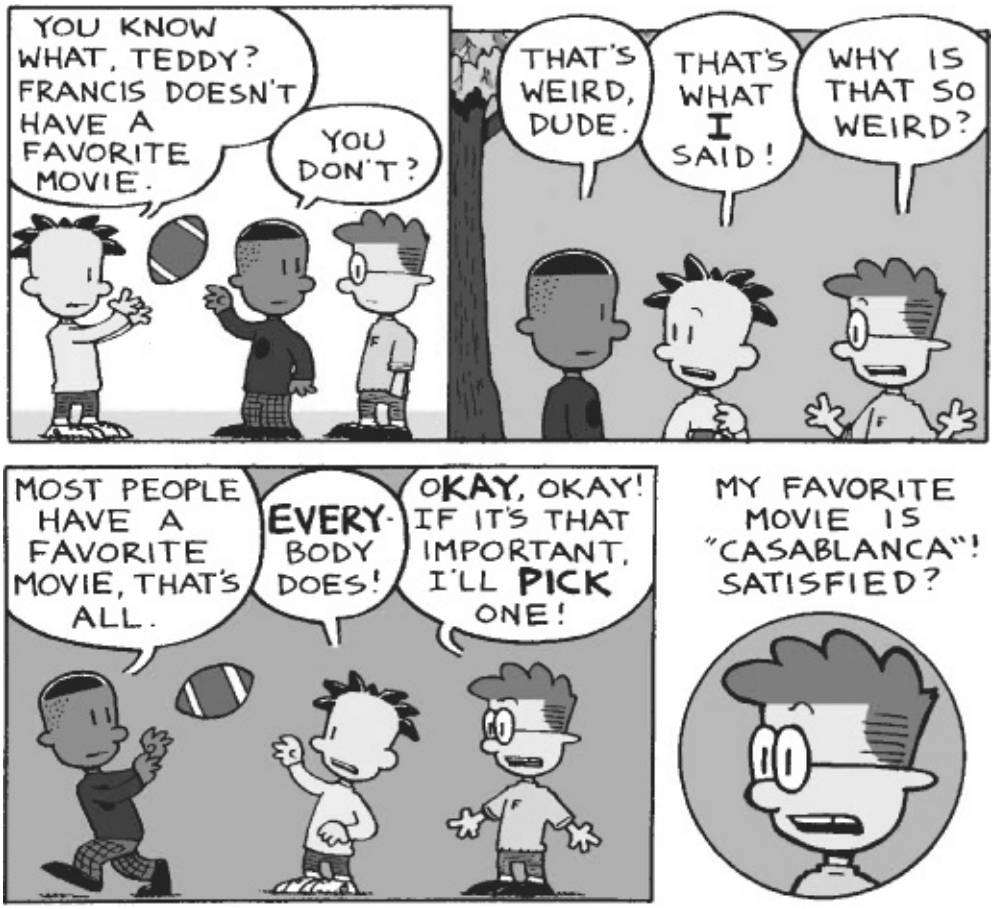
YOU KNOW WHAT, TEDDY? FRANCIS DOESN'T HAVE A FAVORITE MOVIE.
YOU DON'T?
THAT'S WEIRD, DUDE.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID!
WHY IS THAT SO WEIRD?
MOST PEOPLE HAVE A FAVORITE MOVIE, THAT'S ALL.
EVERY-BODY DOES!
OKAY, OKAY! IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT, I'LL PICK ONE!
MY FAVORITE MOVIE IS "CASABLANCA"! SATISFIED?

→

OH, YEAH! THE ONE WITH THOSE ZOO ANIMALS?
...AND THEY WIND UP IN AFRICA!
NO, NO, NO! THAT'S "MADAGASCAR"!
"CASABLANCA" IS A CLASSIC! THE AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE RANKS IT THE SECOND GREATEST FILM OF ALL TIME!
HUH.
NEVER HEARD OF IT.
MY FAVORITE IS "DUMB AND DUMBER"!
HEY! SAME HERE!
REMEMBER HARRY'S BATHROOM SCENE?
HILARIOUS!
HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID.
Peirce

big NATE

DAD, IT'S ALMOST HALLOWEEN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RUIN IT, ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAND OUT RICE CAKES OR TRAIL MIX OR...
RELAX, NATE! THIS YEAR I'M HANDING OUT SOMETHING SWEET!
10/29
SOMETHING SWEET?
SWEET AND HEALTHY!
PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT HANDING OUT RAISINS.
EVEN BETTER! PRUNES!
Peirce
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TRICK OR TREAT!
AH! ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE, YOUNG LADY!
WAIT. WHAT ARE THOSE?
PRUNES! DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS!
EW!
11/1
WAIT! THEY'RE PITTED!
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
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HOW GOES THE TRICK-OR-TREATING, DAD?
YOU WERE RIGHT.
KIDS DON'T WANT PRUNES FOR HALLOWEEN! WHAT WAS I THINKING, HANDING OUT PLAIN OL' PRUNES?
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH THE YOGURT-COVERED ONES!
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR.
11/3
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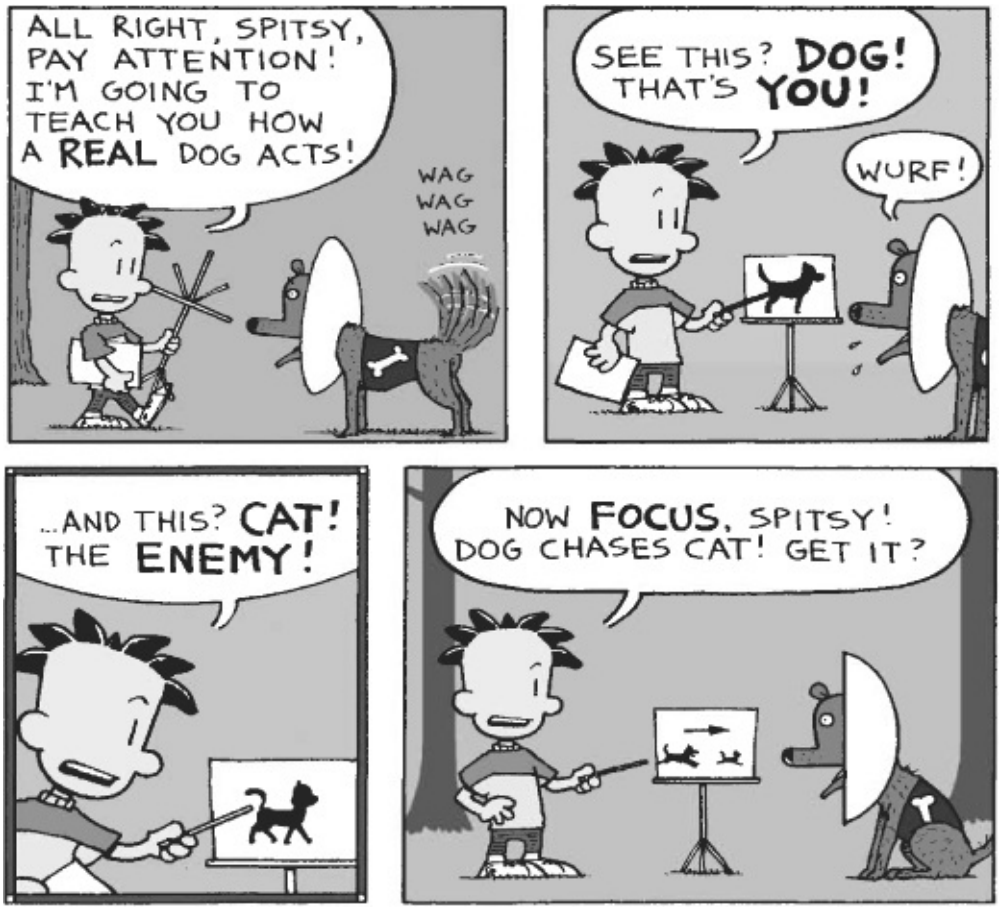
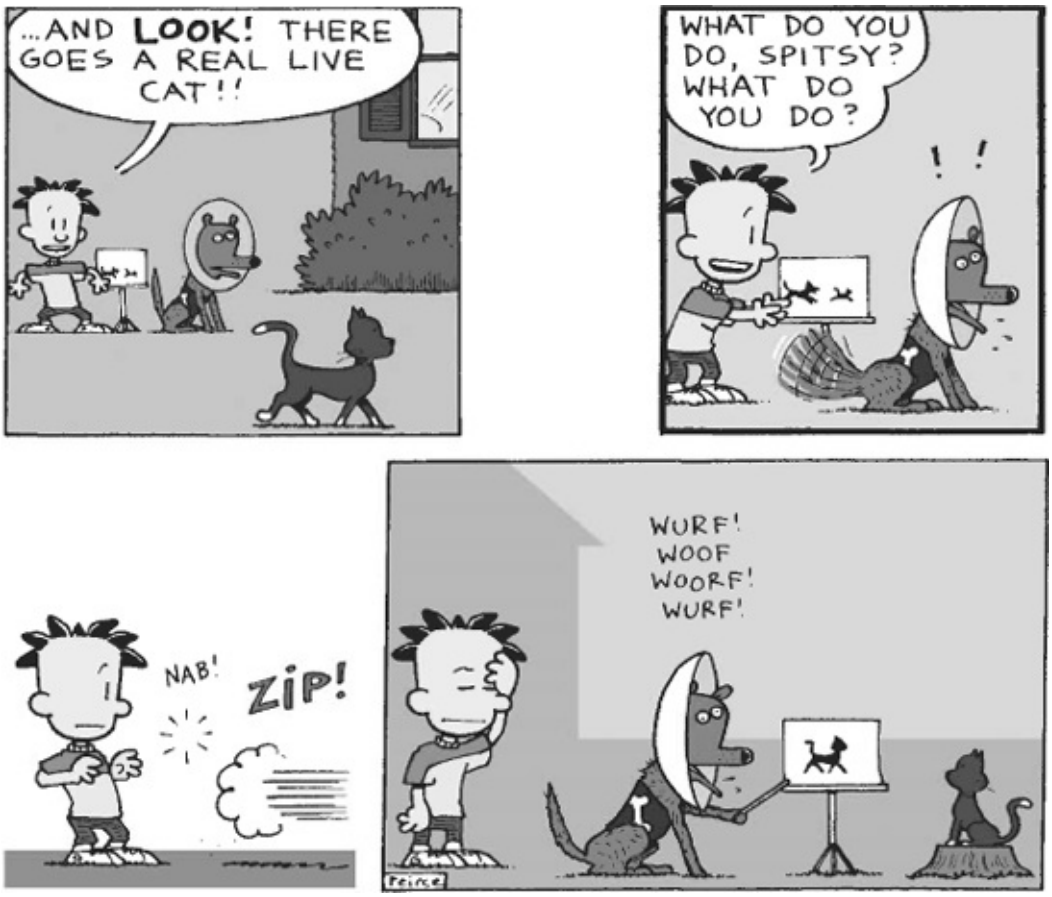
Patricia


ALL RIGHT, SPITSY, PAY ATTENTION! I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU HOW A REAL DOG ACTS!
WAG WAG WAG
SEE THIS? DOG! THAT'S YOU!
WURF!
...AND THIS? CAT! THE ENEMY!
NOW FOCUS, SPITSY! DOG CHASES CAT! GET IT?

→


...AND LOOK! THERE GOES A REAL LIVE CAT!!
WHAT DO YOU DO, SPITSY? WHAT DO YOU DO?
! !
NAB!
ZIP!
WURF! WOOF WOORF! WURF!

big NATE